



THE INDEPENDENT

35p (IR 45p)

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 1996



QUESTIONS OF SPORT: £40,000 TO BE WON

See page 22

HOTEL BREAKS

Two nights for the price of one
page 10 for token and details

MPs to break Murdoch grip on TV sport

Cross-party alliance hits tycoon

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Legislation to stop Rupert Murdoch buying up exclusive rights to top sporting events seemed inevitable last night as a cross-party alliance against the media tycoon formed in both Houses of Parliament.

Labour, which has been building bridges with Mr Murdoch, yesterday delivered what amounted to a snub by announcing it would back an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill in the House of Lords next month.

The move appears to guarantee a government defeat on the issue, as David Mellor, the former cultural heritage secretary, said yesterday that he and other Conservatives would support a ban in the Commons, where the government's majority is at present only three. "If the people who want a change get together, the change will be made," he said.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, said a list of eight events, including the Olympics for which Mr Murdoch's News Corporation is bidding, should be preserved for the main terrestrial television channels.

The eight events – the Olympics, the World Cup, FA Cup and Scottish FA Cup finals, domestic Test cricket matches, Wimbledon, the Grand National and the Derby – are protected by the Government from being shown on "pay-per-view" channels, where viewers pay a fee to watch individual programmes.

However, exclusive rights are still to be bought for showing on the main satellite and cable channels. Nine out of ten households do not have satellite or cable, and the rights to sporting events have increasingly been bought by Sky TV, the dominant subscription TV provider.

Dr Cunningham said: "A Labour government would also



Murdoch: £1.2bn bid for future Olympic Games

said he could imagine supporting Mr Blair at the next election. David Elstein, Head of Programming at Sky, said the list of protected sporting events was an "anachronism from the 1950s". Sky had built up a successful business without any of the events, and a ban would only damage sport. He asked: "Who is going to compensate sports bodies for the losses they suffer as a result of this?"

While proposing the new restraints on Mr Murdoch, Labour still tried hard yesterday to avoid giving him offence. Lord Donoghue, Labour's heritage spokesman in the House of Lords, said: "We are not interested in any campaign against Rupert Murdoch or any other newspaper proprietor. All we are concerned about is the principle of fair access."

He told peers, who gave the Broadcasting Bill its second reading: "The poor, the old, and the unemployed will certainly not be able to afford much subscription or pay-as-you-see television; the BBC and ITV will not be able to afford to buy the rights to broadcast." He was backed by Lord Thomson of Monifieth for the Liberal Democrats, and is believed to have wide support among independent cross-breeders. If the Bill is amended in the Lords, it is unlikely to be reversed in the Commons.

The Prime Minister hinted in a written answer on Monday that the Government might accept the change. "I am aware of public debate on this issue, and we are keeping it under close review." David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, who introduced the 1990 Broadcasting Act, said last week that he had not foreseen that satellite subscription services would generate the revenue needed to buy the Crown Jewels of sport.

It was disclosed last week that Sky TV was ready to offer £1.2bn to secure exclusive European rights for the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2008.



IN BRIEF

Hanging tragedy
The parents of a schoolgirl found choked to death on her bed after being told to tidy her room were discovered hanged in their home. Page 3

Winers to fund Scargill
Arthur Scargill plans to use the 100,000 political fund of the TUC to finance the Socialist Labour Party. Page 2

Rawler allegation
A novice crew were "sent to their deaths" by two men who in their unseaworthy trawler, court was told. Page 3

Minister reprimanded
A junior minister Alastair Burt has been "reprimanded" for a letter which attacked remarks by Baroness Thatcher. Page 2

Ireeces seek new PM
Ireeces's socialists plan to elect new prime minister by the end of the week. Page 9

Iole's wife accused
Elizabeth Dole, wife of the leading Republican presidential candidate, faces allegations of financial favouritism. Page 11

Today's weather
Dry and cold with wintry sun later on. Section Two, page 25

03
9 770951 946337

Yeltsin attacked as Chechen rebels fight on

PHIL REEVES
Pervomayskoye
HELEN WOMACK
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin came under fierce attack yesterday from political opponents and allies alike yesterday, as fighting between Russian troops and Chechen rebels continued unabated.

To add to Mr Yeltsin's woes, Chechen fighters were reported to have seized a ship in Turkey, and one of the key architects of his economic reform programme resigned.

Russian troops and Chechen rebels were still engaged in fierce battles in the burned-out village of Pervomayskoye, despite Mr Yeltsin's efforts to have seized a ship in Turkey, and one of the key architects of his economic reform programme resigned.

The scores of Russian tank shells and rockets that arched across the snowbound fields and slammed into the remnants of Pervomayskoye throughout much of the day provided a continuous reminder that their plans had gone off track, whatever their eventual outcome.

The onslaught was supposed to have been a quick if brutal

exercise to demonstrate to Russians that Mr Yeltsin will not allow his Government to be held to ransom by 150 Chechens, even if it means jeopardising the lives of scores of hostages, including women and children.

But instead of being over within a day the thump of artillery shells and grenades were still echoing across the landscape as darkness fell.

The Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov said that it would be better if Mr Yeltsin did not stand for a second term in June's presidential election. But more worryingly for Mr Yeltsin, the liberal Yabloko grouping said it would seek a vote of no-confidence in the government.

The fate of the majority of the hostages remained unclear.

Major-General Alexander Mikhailov, a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, said Russian troops had brought out 24 people from the village since fighting began on Monday.

The onslaught was supposed to have been a quick if brutal

Rescue, fiasco, page 8

The past 10 days have been

Hubble image shows dawn of the universe

DANNY PENMAN
and PAUL VALLEY

What you can see above stretches the power of human comprehension to its limit. This photograph shows the universe near the moment of its creation.

The picture – the latest taken by the Hubble Space Telescope – amazed delegates at the meeting of the American Astronomical Society in San Antonio this week.

It would take 300,000 years to cross the frame of this picture in a spaceship travelling at 10 times the speed of light. It shows 1,500 galaxies in various stages of formation. The images are so faint they never before have been seen – the eye would need to be 4 billion times more powerful to perceive them.

And it may hold the answer to the question which has perplexed astronomers for generations: how do galaxies form?

Each speck or swirl of light is a galaxy containing up to 100 billion suns all streaming away from the Earth at 19,000 miles per second.

Light from the brightest galaxies took about five billion years to reach the Earth. Light from the dimmest set off about 12-15 billion years ago – around the time when the universe was born.

"As the images have come up on our screens, we have not been able to keep from wondering if we might somehow be seeing our own origins in all of this," Robert E Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, said.

The onslaught was supposed to have been a quick if brutal



View of the British night sky looking North in January

Overhead
CASSIOPEIA
PERSEUS
SEGASUS
CYGNUS
WEST
EAST

Point that the Hubble telescope was looking at in the picture above. Seen from Earth by the naked eye, the area of the sky it covers would be as small as a grain of sand viewed from a distance of 6 feet.

an unbelievable experience."

The photograph – which is the result of a single exposure in which the camera shutter was kept open for 10 days – focuses on an area which seen from the Earth was about the size of a large grain of sand held at arm's length. The camera was directed at a point in the sky near the handle of the Big Dipper, a part of the universe continuously in view of the orbiting telescope.

The result has forced Hubble astronomers to abandon the language of scientific precision and to speak only of "wonderment". It is a collection of "things we have not seen before", Andrew S Fruchter, another Hubble team member, said. There are elliptical shapes and spirals. Some are like beach balls and footballs. Others are long cigar-shaped clusters of stars.

The images may hold the answer to the enigma of how the existing galaxies came into being. These star groups are found throughout the universe but

Home
07000 654321

Office
07000 654321

Mobile
07000 654321

Anywhere
07000 654321



A personal number is not connected to a single phone, so it gives you control by directing all your calls to any phone you choose.

Contact us now for complete details.

Numbers are going fast, so be sure to reserve your special

number before someone else does.

THE PERSONAL NUMBER COMPANY PLC

Only a Personal Number lets you take control.

07000 707070

IN ASSOCIATION WITH VODAFONE GROUP

ARTS 7-11 BRIDGET JONES 5 CHESS 26 CROSSWORD 26
LAW & FINANCE 12-21 LIFE 4-6 LISTINGS 24,25 REVIEWS 8,9
OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 19 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 26
THEATRE 10,11 TRAVEL 22 TV & RADIO 27,28 WEATHER 25

section ONE

section TWO

© 1996 The Independent

news



Man charged over girl, 5

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A man was charged yesterday with abducting a five-year-old girl who has been missing from her home since Sunday.

Police divers and mountain rescue teams were yesterday brought in to the search for Rosemary McCann who disappeared from her home in Oldham, Greater Manchester, while sleeping alongside her brother.

Andrew Pountley, 31, a former boyfriend of Rosemary's mother, was charged with the girl's abduction. He is due to appear before magistrates in Oldham today.



Search squad: Police divers looking for the missing five-year-old Rosemary McCann (above left) in Alexandra Park, Oldham

Mr Pountley, of Oldham, had been held for questioning shortly after the girl disappeared on Sunday. Rosemary was last seen in her bedroom dressed in her pyjamas.

Rosemary's mother Josie Manon, 26, made an emotional appeal yesterday for the public to respond to a police call to check garages, outbuildings and vehicles for her daughter.

"I am very, very worried," said Mrs Manon. "All I want is my child back home. Please, please help the police find my child."

Det Supt Ron Gaffey, who is leading the hunt, said that if any one was holding her they should think about the pain they were causing her family.

He told a news conference: "It is now more than 48 hours

since Rosemary was taken. With every minute and hour I am becoming more concerned."

"I am earnestly hoping she is still alive. It may be someone is holding her against her will or

she is tied up alone somewhere."

An extensive search was extended yesterday to ponds and woodland near Rosemary's home.

Photograph: Martin Rickett

Minister carpeted as Tories close ranks over Thatcher

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Alistair Burt, a social security minister, has been officially "reprimanded" by government whips for writing a letter to a newspaper attacking "breath-taking" remarks in Baroness Thatcher's controversial lecture last week.

The reprimand was confirmed yesterday as John Major prepared to reunite his party with a speech to business in Birmingham on Friday designed to emphasise the broad appeal of the Conservative party and the potential impact of economic recovery on ordinary people.

The extreme sensitivity of party efforts to put the impact of Lady Thatcher's speech behind it was underlined yesterday by the rebuke for Mr Burt - and Mr Major's refusal to discuss it later in the Commons.

In a candid letter in yesterday's *Times*, Mr Burt, a left-of-centre minister whose departmental head is Peter Lilley,

the Thatcherite Secretary of State for Social Security, pointedly criticised the former Prime Minister for suggesting that the Government's unpopularity stemmed from its failure to satisfy the middle classes.

Pressed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, yesterday, to confirm that the minister had been carpeted for writing his letter,

But it was confirmed by se-

nior party sources that the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad, had issued a reprimand to Mr Burt for breaking ranks with his letter. Mr Burt - apparently without consulting colleagues at ministerial protocol requires - wrote that "class has for too long been the thorn in the flesh of British life".

His letter adds: "The Labour

Party was rightly rejected by the people when it seemed almost aggressively class based."

Mr Burt declares: "What I find breathtaking is the apparent exclusiveness of Lady Thatcher's Conservative horizon."

And he concludes: "There are staunch Conservatives all over the country, not least in the North, who might not describe themselves as middle class, and why should they?"

It was acknowledged unofficially in ministerial circles yesterday that Mr Burt's remarks did not noticeably conflict with Mr Major's uncompromising reassessment of "One Nation" Conservatism, 24 hours after Lady Thatcher's lecture.

But Mr Major did not directly criticise Lady Thatcher and it was pointed out that the Prime Minister's remarks were intended to be the last word.

Official guidance for ministers also requires that they seek permission before writing letters or articles on matters of general political controversy.

Michael Heseltine was branded "Lord of the Bungle" last night after revealing a day early that the unemployment figures will show a fall.

The deputy Prime Minister hailed the "excellent news" that the jobless total had gone down for the 28th month in a row during a visit to Lathom in Lancashire.

The figures, due to be released today, are normally a

closely guarded secret because of their market sensitivity. But the news was released by Mr Heseltine as he attempted to deflect questions about the reprimand for a minister who had criticised Baroness Thatcher.

Accusing the Government of leaking the figures for political ends, John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said: "The Central Statistical Office should be independent of party politics but Tarzan, Lord of the Bungle, has let the big cat out."

Tarzan: 'Lord of the Bungle'

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine was branded "Lord of the Bungle" last night after revealing a day early that the unemployment figures will show a fall.

The deputy Prime Minister hailed the "excellent news" that the jobless total had gone down for the 28th month in a row during a visit to Lathom in Lancashire.

The figures, due to be released today, are normally a

secret because of their market sensitivity. But the news was released by Mr Heseltine as he attempted to deflect questions about the reprimand for a minister who had criticised Baroness Thatcher.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

However, the Ministry of Defence last night insisted no decision had been taken. They said Mr Major had been referring to an order from the Italian government.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

However, the Ministry of Defence last night insisted no decision had been taken. They said Mr Major had been referring to an order from the Italian government.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpeted for the gaffe.

John Major was also accused by Labour of making a gaffe by confirming a big defence order for Land Rover ambulances during Commons questions yesterday, two days before it was due to be formally announced.

It was unclear last night whether Mr Heseltine will be carpet

news

Trawler crew 'sent to their deaths'



Two of the crew members of the *Pescado* who died, the skipper Neil Curry and his fiancée Jo Ann Thomas

A six-strong novice crew were "sent to their deaths" by two men who ran their unseaworthy trawler, a court was told yesterday.

The steel-hulled scalloper *Pescado* was unstable when it sailed from Falmouth, Cornwall, on 25 February 1991 without a qualified skipper, it was alleged.

After a so-far unexplained capsiz, 13 miles off Dodman Point, south Cornwall, the crew of five men and one woman "were left to sink or swim", the prosecutor, Francis Gilbert QC, told the jury at Bristol Crown Court.

"In the event they all drowned," he said on the opening day of what could be the six-week manslaughter trial of Joseph O'Connor, 44, and Alan Ayres, 56.

The crew of the 100-ton Plymouth-registered vessel were only 12 minutes flying time by rescue helicopter from the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose when they died, Mr Gilbert said.

But one of the *Pescado's* radios was broken and was not connected to a power supply. A short-wave radio was on board but none of the crew was a qualified operator.

"It is an irony the rescue ser-

vices were so close but unaware of the need for their help," the QC said.

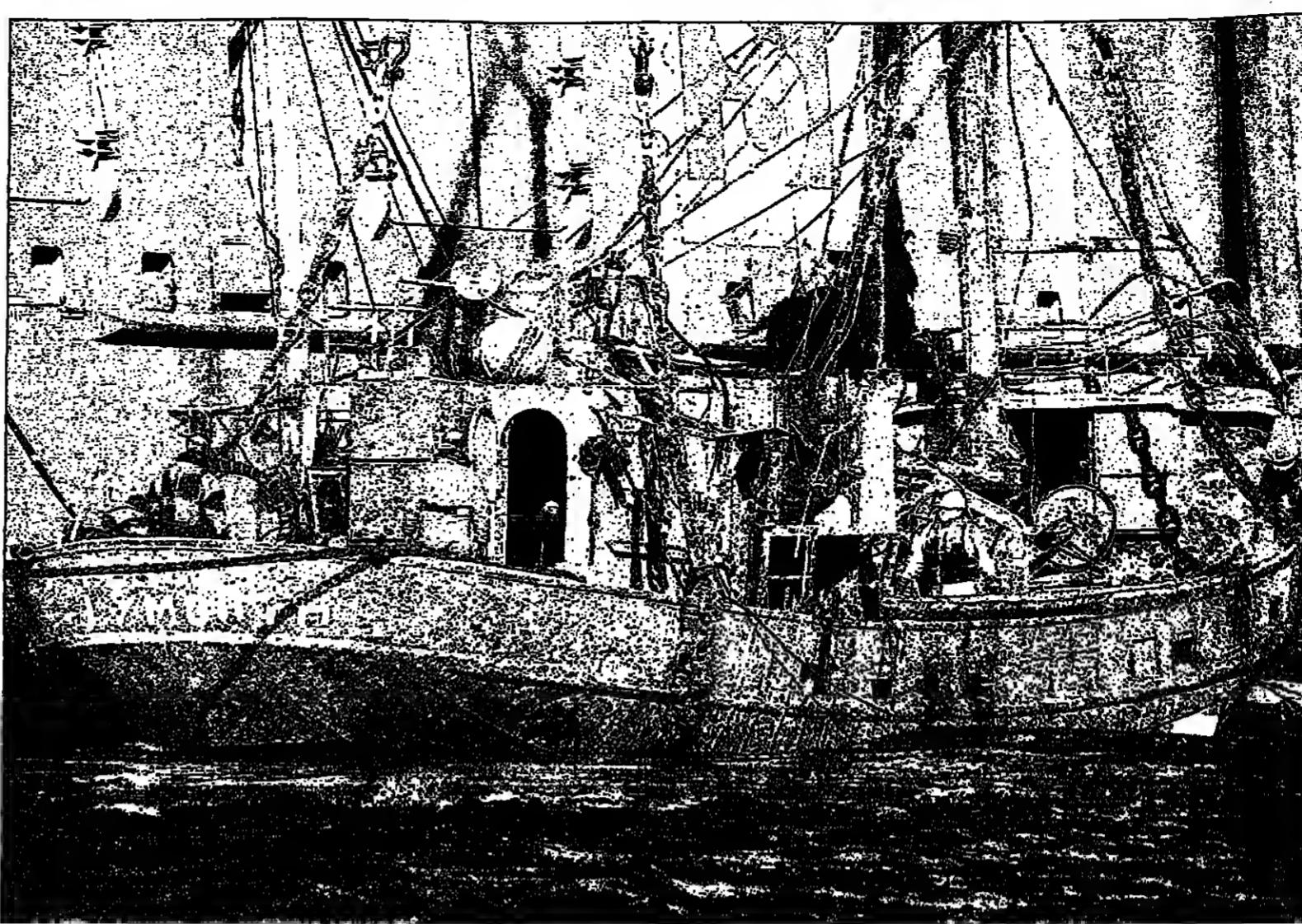
The vessel was not equipped with an emergency radio alert beacon and its sole out-of-date liferaft was "useless", and was lashed to the railings.

The Crown said that the vessel had been sent to sea without safety authorisation, following a refit "from barely more than being fit for scrap". Some of the crew would have survived if the required safety equipment had been on board, it was claimed.

"None of this crew had any qualification whatsoever—they were in effect novices sent to their deaths by the defendants," the prosecutor said.

"It is the Crown's case that at the time of the last fatal voyage, that *Pescado* was being operated by the two defendants effectively in partnership, and they are both responsible in manslaughter for the deaths of the crew," he told the jury.

Mr O'Connor, of Durnford Street, Plymouth, and Mr Ayres, of North Hill, Plymouth, were the managing agent and the director respectively of Guideday Ltd, which owned the 35-year-old *Pescado*. They have each pleaded not guilty to six manslaughter charges, alleging



Maritime tragedy: The *Pescado*, which capsized killing all six crew members, and its operators, Alan Ayres (below left) and Joseph O'Connor

breach of duty of care. It is said that the breach amounted to gross negligence, and was a substantial cause of their deaths.

Those who died were the skipper, Neil Curry, 28, from South Uist, Western Isles; his 23-year-old fiancée and ship's cook, Jo Ann Thomas, from Plymouth; 34-year-old Peter Birley, from Fleetwood, Lancs; Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln; Sean Kelly, 17, from Exmouth, Devon; and Steven Hardy, 30, from Plymouth.

As the majority of them had little or no experience of scallop fishing, they were "innocents" when they sailed on the last voyage.

Mr Gilbert claimed that although the *Pescado* was issued with a Department of Transport fishing vessel safety certificate

in 1987, it was never valid, because an engine was later replaced.

This vessel never, ever sailed

within the law from the moment O'Connor bought her until she sank," said Mr Gilbert.

After buying the vessel in 1987, Mr O'Connor had rigged her as a scalloper before going bankrupt two years later.

He persuaded a friend,

Richard Cox, to buy Guideday Ltd, and purchase the *Pescado* from the receiver, for £5,500 in March 1990.

Mr O'Connor supervised the later refitting and re-equipping of the vessel, an operation that was largely financed by Mr Ayres, said Mr Gilbert.

The Crown claimed that Mr O'Connor had deliberately avoided alerting the Department of Transport to the fin-

ished refit and was "hoping to get away with it".

Evidence pointed to the vessel being lost in a capsizing resulting from difficulties with the gear, with the crew being unable to remedy with the problem before she was dragged down. However, it may be said that it resulted from a collision with a surface vessel or submarine, Mr Gilbert told the jury.

But whatever the cause of the sinking, it was the lack of stability and the absence of safety equipment which was the most serious aspect of the case, Mr Gilbert said.

The charges follow a police investigation that was launched after the *Pescado* was raised from the seabed in a £250,000 operation in September 1993. The hearing was adjourned until today.



Parents are found hanged after daughter's death

The parents of a schoolgirl found choked to death on her tie after being told to tidy her room were yesterday discovered hanged in their home.

Michelle Henry, 12, died two months ago after looping a blue silk tie round her neck and fixing the other end to the bedroom door handle.

Her parents Barbara, 38, and Michael, 37, had battled to come to terms with the tragedy.

But yesterday Michelle's uncle, Derek Francis, - who originally found the young girl dead in her room - returned from a night shift to the home he shared with the family in Montpelier, Bristol, to discover his sister Barbara and Michael hanging from the staircase.

Last November, Mr Francis, a 34-year-old hotel cleaner, had found Michelle's body behind her bedroom door, the morning after he had scolded his niece for having an untidy room.

Mr Francis told an inquest into her death: "When I came back in the morning, Michelle's bedroom door was closed but the light was still on."

"I had words with her the night before about her room being untidy and I did not want to



trouble her, so I went downstairs to make myself a drink."

"Later on I knocked on the door two or three times and there was no reply. I pushed my way into the room and saw Michelle lying on the floor."

"I thought she had passed out or was sick. But then I noticed the tie had been knotted around the door handle and I realised she was dead."

His sister, a worker at a homeless project, had broken down after the inquest hearing.

"We are desperately trying to come to terms with her tragic

death—but I don't know how," Mrs Henry said.

"She was a very happy and sensible girl and I just cannot see her killing herself."

"We used to tell her off quite a lot for being untidy and she would be a bit grumpy for a while but it would never last."

Yesterday grieving relatives gathered at the family's three-bedroom terraced house.

Mrs Henry's cousin, Vida Tucker, 54, said: "We are a very close-knit family."

"Michelle's death hit us all very hard. Her parents never got

over her death and clearly they just couldn't handle it any more."

She added: "I saw them a few days ago and although they were smiling, under the surface they were both completely shattered."

"It takes time to come to terms with a tragedy like Michelle's death and I knew they could never forget it."

Mrs Henry's father, Granville, said: "I just can't believe what has happened. There was never any sign that they would do anything like this."

"They were very close to Michelle but they obviously couldn't come to terms with what happened."

"I can't believe this is happening," he added.

The Avon Coroner, Paul Forster, recorded a verdict of accidental death at the inquest into Michelle's death in November.

He said at the hearing: "I have severe doubts about recording a verdict of suicide because a 12-year-old child is too young to be considered capable of planning to take her own life."

"It is more likely that Michelle's death was a result of an accident."

Sexual 'banter' led to dismissal

An insurance company branch where a manager is alleged to have harassed three women enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere where banter was freely exchanged, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Ms Helen Gower, counsel for the manager, Michael Jennings, who is claiming unfair dismissal, said many of the staff at the Prudential office in south-east London enjoyed trading personal comments among themselves.

The tribunal, in Croydon, south London, has heard allegations that Mr Jennings, 47, harassed three women at the branch. They cannot be named for legal reasons.

Ms Gower said boards erected on office walls to celebrate 25 years' service to the company by Mr Jennings included ref-

erences to his appearance. Among suggestions displayed for a possible retirement job was that he promoted slimming regimes. He appreciated the humour as harmless fun, she said.

One of the women, a 17-year-old trainee, complained of being bombarded with gifts from Mr Jennings, including perfume, a ring, and a note asking her to marry him, the tribunal was told.

She became depressed at his unwanted attention, losing interest in her appearance and failing to wash her hair or change her clothes. She confided in other members of staff, Tony McDonald, the personnel manager who investigated the harassment claims, told the tribunal.

He said he had rejected claims that the woman was fo-

menting discontent against her boss and said it was only "human nature" for workmates to discuss her accusations. He said he believed that there was a case to answer.

The teenager felt too embarrassed to speak officially of her ordeal, Mr McDonald said, until she was dismissed for "budgetary reasons".

The tribunal later heard how Mr Jennings's new wife, Katrina, had written to the division's general manager saying the couple were experiencing difficulties, and accusing the trainee of fabrication.

The tribunal was also told that Mr Jennings joked publicly about a female staff manager's failure to clinch two deals, parodying the phrase used in the office for failure to clinch a deal.

The hearing resumes today.

Lloyds offers couple a way out of ruin

STEVE BOGGAN and MARK LISTER

A couple who won £77,500 damages from Lloyds Bank have been offered a chance to avoid being bankrupted in a £150,000 counter-claim by the bank's lawyers.

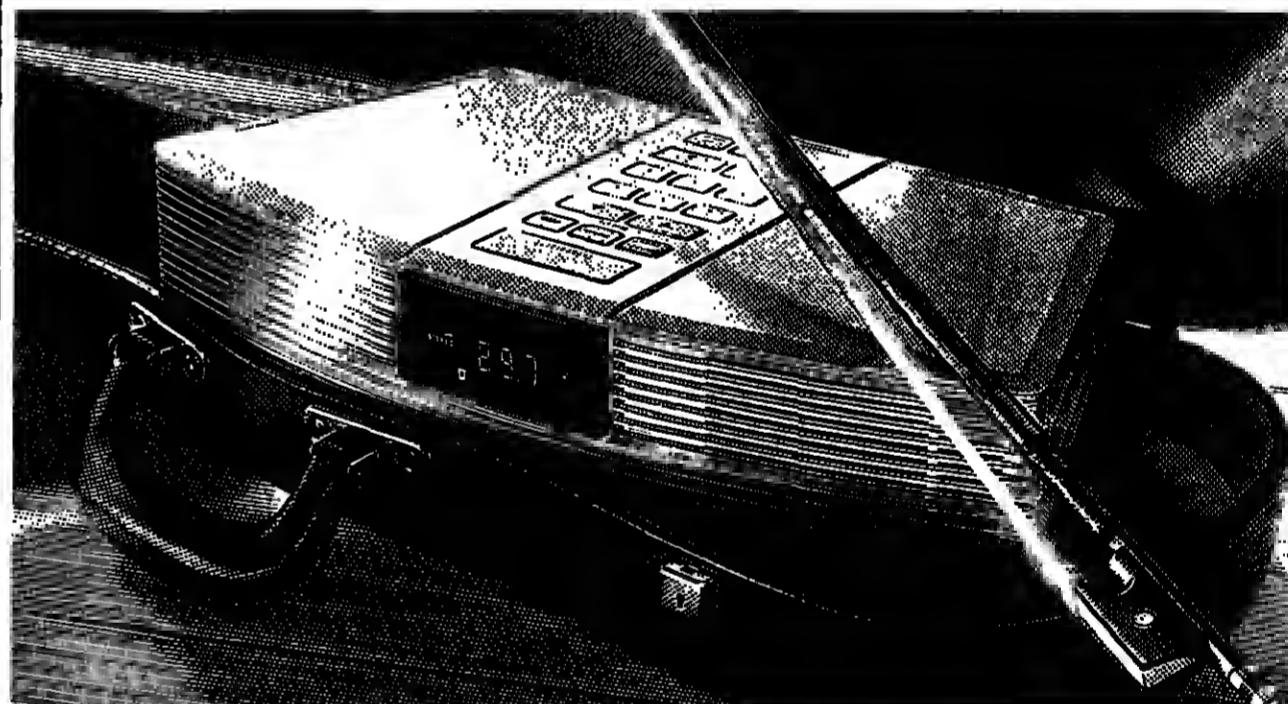
Richard Spindler and Julia Verity made legal history last September when they were awarded damages over bad loan advice given by a branch manager. However, as the case resumed, they faced ruin because of a disputed claim over earlier mortgages which the bank says are still outstanding.

During yesterday's hearing at the High Court in Leeds, Mr Spindler, 36, an acupuncturist, and Mrs Verity, a 55-year-old leecher, both from Henley, in Oxfordshire, were offered a compromise which would leave them owing about £27,000 instead of the £160,000 initially claimed by the bank. They argue that they owe nothing.

Gregory Mitchell, counsel for the bank, said the couple owed £150,000 on loans, including the mortgage on a failed property speculation and interest. However, when making their statement of claim in the last case, the couple demanded interest only up to December 1990, instead of the present day.

Mr Mitchell said the bank, in its turn, was now prepared to return to December 1990 when the interest was lower on all outstanding accounts. Lloyds Bank would credit the couple with the £77,529 won at the earlier hearing which would then pay off all the loans and leave a mortgage debt of £27,000 pounds, plus the interest to date. That, amounting to about £10,000, would be offset by a claim for loss of earnings on Mrs Verity's part for about the same amount.

Mr Mitchell said: "My counter-claim still stands for the full figure, but so the plaintiffs don't have the full interest on their accounts... I can short-circuit it in the way I have done by returning to December 1990." It is understood the couple were considering the offer last night. The case continues.



Small wonder brings you big, lifelike sound.

Introducing the Bose® Wave® radio for room-filling sound throughout your home.

When was the last time you enjoyed the distinct sound of orchestral strings in your kitchen? Or in the study? The new Bose Wave radio makes it possible any time.

It's attractive and loaded with features. But the true beauty of this small wonder is the sound... it's bigger, richer and more lifelike than you ever thought a radio could be. Measuring just 4.5" high x 14" wide x 8" deep, the Wave radio is small enough to fit in any room in your home. And with Bose's patented Acoustic Waveguide® speaker technology it fills any room with surprisingly clear, lifelike sound.

The critics approved.

The European called it "a dramatic improvement in sound quality" and according to *The Sunday Times*

"The Wave radio is a great leap forward." We think you'll be equally impressed. The Bose Wave radio is designed both for great sound and for convenience. There is a credit card-sized remote control, pre-set buttons

for your favourite AM/FM stations, dual alarms and many other features. You can even connect it to a CD player or TV to enjoy any music you like.

Audition the Bose Wave radio in your home.

The Wave radio is only available direct from Bose. For a free information pack, simply call the free number or send/fax the coupon below. Or to audition the Wave radio in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, call:

0800 614 293.

When calling, please quote the reference number 2371.

Yes, Bose, it sounds good to me.

Please send me more information about the Bose Wave radio and the 14-day, satisfaction-guaranteed audition.

Name _____ Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Tel. _____ day _____ eve _____

Address _____

Postal code _____

Please return in an envelope to: Bose, Freeport, TK 1020, Tiverton, Devon EX16 2UN. No stamp necessary.

Or fax to: 0181 894 7664.

BOSE Sound through research.

4 politics



On guard: Security staff protesting outside the House of Commons yesterday against plans to privatise the Custody Service, which protects government and other high-profile buildings in London
Photograph: Edward Webb

Rifkind promises to keep 'beacon of freedom' alight

□ Foreign Secretary heads off Labour attack over World Service □ MPs back Private Bill to restrict tobacco adverts

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday bought his way out of trouble in the Commons over cuts in the BBC World Service with an announcement that private sector money could be used to fund running costs. Faced with the prospect of a rebellion by Tory backbenchers, Mr Rifkind said the Government did not want to do anything that would damage the World Service.

Executives of the Foreign Office-funded service met at the weekend to consider cuts in its 42-language broadcasts in order to accommodate cuts of £4.5m in its 1997-98 operating costs - down to £13.2m - and a £2m cut in capital spending over the three years 1996-99.

Opening the debate, Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, described the World Service as a "beacon of freedom" and said cuts would damage Britain's diplomatic influence and trade. But, following Mr Rifkind's concession, the Labour motion expressing alarm at the "likely reduction" in the range of foreign language broadcasts was rejected by 310 to 291.

Inside Parliament

Stephen Goodwin

Speaking after the vote Mr Cook said he was pleased the Government had changed its mind and decided to be more flexible over funding. "This would have been a shoddy way to have treated one of this country's greatest assets."

Emma Nicholson, in her first speech from the Liberal Democrat benches since quitting the Tory ranks, said the value of the World Service was incalculable. "I fear that where dictators and oppressors have failed, our own Treasury book-keepers, aided by weak-willed, blinkered, ostrich-minded ministers, will succeed, weakening, or eventually silencing altogether, a powerful voice for Britain."

But Mr Rifkind said the Government had a duty to discuss with the BBC whether their concerns were justified and see if it could make do with slightly reduced resources. "We have no intention of seeing the removal of successful language services," the Foreign Secretary said. And, paving the way for his offer to Tory critics, he said there was evidence that "life is going to be considerably easier for the World Service than they fear".

"Privatisation can go too far. This is a sphere which ought to remain entirely under BBC control."

Sir Patrick Cormack, Tory MP for South Staffordshire, said he did not for one second question Mr Rifkind's commitment, still less his integrity. "But I am troubled about the intention and still more the potential reliance on private finance for the BBC."

"It is almost a contradiction in terms. There are some things which quite rightly and properly should be funded from the public purse."

MPs voted by 158 to 39 in support of a move to ban advertising and sports sponsorship by tobacco companies. Though Simon Hughes's Tobacco (Protection of Children and Restriction of Promotion) Bill has no chance of becoming law because of the tight timetable for backbench legislation, its introduction was a significant expression of MPs' opinion.

Mr Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, said he wanted to protect young people from the "insidious" effects of tobacco advertising. It had been banned from television and radio and it was now time to ban it from billboards and sports events.

The biggest change asked of the BBC is to raise private finance to replace the £22m cut from capital spending - mainly to pay for a new transmitter in Oman for the Arabic service and requirements at its Bush House headquarters.

"On the evidence that is now accumulating it would appear that there is scope for around £30m of private funding" - more than meeting the needs of the capital programme.

Mr Rifkind told MPs that both he and the Chief Secretary, William Waldegrave, would "look sympathetically" at providing the flexibility to allow resources to be moved into the operating account.

While the concession was accepted with cautious relief by some backbenchers, former prime minister Sir Edward Heath remained hostile to the introduction of private finance into the service, claiming it threatened the BBC's reputation for independence.

The British Medical Association is putting pressure on ministers to give its members better protection in the surgery against violent patients.

Doctors demand new security from attack

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Doctors' leaders who are due to meet ministers tomorrow to demand better security in surgeries are also pressing police chiefs to agree that they should be allowed to examine violent patients in police stations instead of on practice premises.

Doctors are worried about the threat of attacks both from mentally ill patients who have been released into the community and from drug addicts.

The British Medical Association will put pressure on Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, at a meeting tomorrow, arguing that family doctors are in the front line in dealing with potentially dangerous patients.

The BMA is not pressing for

guards to be appointed to all GP surgeries but it has asked the Government to consider creating high-security units with protection for doctors where selected patients could be treated.

Officials at the Department of Health are considering the BMA's proposals as ministers prepare to face renewed criticism over the release of mentally ill patients into the community.

Mr Dorrell, who is meeting the BMA to discuss the renegotiation of their contract, will announce details shortly of a new patients' charter for the mentally ill. It will give patients specific rights to treat-

ment in the community, and lay duties on health authorities to provide the services.

Mr Dorrell underlined his concern in a review of the National Health Service in a speech last week at Manchester Business School. "A modern mental health service needs to provide a spectrum of care, including acute hospital space, as well as sheltered support, community mental health teams and facilities to deal with crisis care."

"When those services are all properly provided, and the links with social services all work properly, we deliver a high-quality service. But there are too many

examples of breakdown and too many areas where some part of the jigsaw is missing," he said.

In highlighting "variations" in national care for the mentally ill, Mr Dorrell said the public had been led to believe that it was the Government's policy to close all acute mental health facilities and treat all patients in the community, but "that is not and never has been an accurate description of our policy".

He said there needed to be a continuing focus on providing the full range of care, including in-patient care and longer-term professional staff provision for those with the most pressing needs.

'Gridlock' in secure beds adds to crisis on wards

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Health managers claim that "gridlock" in the secure beds designed to take the most disturbed and potentially violent offenders has contributed to the dangerous pressures on acute psychiatric wards.

It is one of six factors that have led to what the Mental Health Act Commission calls a "crisis" in mental health services which it says has worsened over the past two years.

The diversion of mentally ill offenders from prison to hospitals has led to the three tiers of locked wards - medium secure, and regional secure units, and the special hospitals such as Broadmoor - "sliding up", increasing the difficulty of exchanging patients between them.

At one end of the system, approaching a quarter of Broadmoor's 450 patients could be discharged to a less secure environment if space was available, says Liz Hill, clinical unit manager at the special hospital.

At the other end, ordinary acute wards are having to handle growing numbers of seriously disturbed patients because they cannot be moved up to more secure accommodation.

More medium secure beds are being built - numbers are due to rise from about 700 to 1,000 by March and 1,200 by December in a £45m programme.

But both the Mental Health Act Commission and the Royal College of Psychiatrists fear that few of the places will be available to support local services. The total still stands well below the 2,000 places that the

where growing numbers are formally detained. The commission highlighted the case of a martial arts expert who became highly disturbed on an ordinary psychiatric ward. He was put into seclusion but smashed the door. He was only restrained when the police arrived. No secure bed could be found for him for a week, during which time he had to be kept heavily sedated and barricaded into the seclusion room - treatment the staff and commission agreed was "inhuman".

The commission says that while many long-stay patients have successfully transferred to ordinary psychiatric wards, "there remains a core of patients unable to make the transition and for whom community care is arguably the least preferred option. This reality can be lost in the pressure for change".

Asylum rules face Lords challenge

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Political Correspondent

A key test of Labour's attitude to the Government's drive to curb the number of asylum seekers is looming in a House of Lords vote on the withdrawal of welfare benefits from applicants awaiting appeals.

Whilst Labour has put down a "prayer" deplored regulations set to bring in the change by 5 February, by convention Opposition peers do not seek to vote down legislation in its entirety.

But the Liberal Democrat health and social security spokesman, Earl Russell, has called on Labour to vote for a motion that he has tabled which does not oppose the regulations as such, but urges that following their implementation the Government should "ensure that asylum seekers pursuing appeals have visible legal means of support pending the conclusion of their appeals".

A vote in favour of the motion when the regulations come before the House on 30 January would be embarrassing for the Government but could also have important practical ramifications, because it would show there was insufficient political backing to pursue the abolition of a fallback source of help under the 1989 Children Act.

The Act puts a duty on local councils to provide support and accommodation for children in need in their areas.

A combination of Labour and Liberal Democrat support, plus expected backing from some Tory rebels and most of

the bishops, could ensure the vote is won, Liberal Democrat strategists argued yesterday.

A Labour Lords source said the party felt "very strongly about these regulations, hence our prayer" - but it was still reflecting on whether to whip its peers to vote for the motion.

The Labour front bench is nervous because of threats from the Conservatives that if Labour voted down government legislation they would exploit their greater numbers to the full in Opposition. But some critics argue that the party might be tempted to drag its feet because the asylum seekers' cause is not popular with the electorate.

The Liberal Democrats pointed out that Labour had been happy to support use of the motion procedure on 5 December when the Government was defeated over probation officer training. On that occasion peers voted by 108 to 85 for higher levels of training than those put forward by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Lord Russell said yesterday: "I don't believe in using starvation as an instrument of policy, and I cannot see any legal way these people can get enough to eat."

The bishops, led by the Bishop of Ripon, are expected to give strong support to the motion, along with Tory peers such as Baroness Flather, who led a modest revolt on the 1993 Asylum Bill. Opponents of the regulations fear that unless Labour instructs its peers to attend, many will leave the House before the vote is taken.

We've made our affordable sofas even more desirable...

WASHING MACHINE

...by making them washable.

£399 inc. V.A.T. with fully removable/washable covers and FREE delivery.

If you like the look of our sofas and the sound of our direct-to-you prices, don't sit on your decision to send for the Divani brochure a moment longer. For added practicality, our stylish Divani range of custom-made large and two-seater sofas, armchairs and footstools are all designed with removable, washable, cotton covers. All come in a choice of natural, green, blue or terracotta colourways. And all include free delivery, 21 day money back and full 2 year guarantees. So cut the coupon and discover the best way to cut the cost of your home comforts with Divani.

Please send me a copy of the Divani sofa brochure.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Divani
Mail Order Ltd., Vicarage Works,
Crumlin Road, Crumlin, Gwent NP1 4PL.
Telephone: 01495 249241.

Divani
Delivering quality and value direct.

Colonial
Save Choose Arrange Organise Phone Mail

Move your mortgage for free*
Plus 2% discount for 2 years

5.74% (APR 5.9%)

Free legal option, Free valuation, No arrangement fee.*

Call...0800 828 585

Lines open Mon to Fri 8 am - 8 pm

Quote
ref: IN22

Now we're talking mortgages.

*Fee Free includes: free valuation, no arrangement fee as part of the exclusive offer; this assumes that you are taking the free legal option using the solicitors recommended by the lender and that there are no relevant charges on your existing mortgage and the property is located in England or Wales. In Scotland a contribution of £100 may be made towards legal fees. A typical example of a £50,000 interest only mortgage over 25 years (300 months) on a property valued at £100,000 is: Initial nominal interest rate 5.74% and gross monthly repayment £372.00 (net monthly payment £265.47) for 300 months from completion. APR = 5.9%. After the initial 2 year period the interest rate increases annually by 1% and the standard variable mortgage base rate. Total amount payable £146,100.00. Interest rates may vary but no account of any variation is taken in this example. Not monthly payments may show the benefit of tax relief at 15% under the MIRAS system on £30,000 of the mortgage. The property will be mortgaged as security for the loan. Loans are not available to persons under 18 years of age. All mortgages are subject to status and valuation. Written quotations are available upon request. If you redeem your mortgage within the first 3 years, a charge equivalent to 5% of the amount redeemed early becomes payable. The mortgage is fully portable and no charge is made if you move home and take the same mortgage scheme with the lender on the same terms. Rates are correct and funds available at time of printing.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DON'T KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.
Colonial Direct represents the Colonial Mutual Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. We can advise you only on our products. For your added security all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure.

Colonial Direct, Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4YV.

J. M. M.

news

Air aces test Eurofighter in a fantasy flight from reality



Image of war: Lt Kevin Seymour using the flight simulator at the launch of the new game. Photograph: Dillon Bryden



Sky's the limit: The simulated effect of flying a Eurofighter 2000C, the next generation of fighter jets

WILL BENNETT

In the skies over an unidentified nation yesterday, Flt Lt Sandy Gordon, of the RAF, and Lt Kevin Seymour, of the Fleet Air Arm, fought a fierce aerial battle, each twisting and turning to avoid being shot down.

The honour of the Royal Navy was narrowly maintained by Lt Seymour who shot down Flt Lt Gordon seconds before his own fighter was reduced to scrap metal by a missile.

In reality, Flt Lt Gordon, who flew Tornado F3 fighters during the Gulf war, and Lt Seymour, who spent two years patrolling

Bosnia in Harrier jump-jets, were taking part in the launch of a new computer game.

But the fact they were there illustrates how the boundaries between fantasy and reality in the computer world are becoming blurred, with combat simulations bridging the two.

The two fighter pilots were playing a CD-ROM game that simulates flying the Eurofighter 2000, the next generation of fighter being jointly produced by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. Ironically,

the game is available six years before the plane is due to be in service.

But Digital Image Design (DID), designers of the Eurofighter game TFX-EF2000, have also produced Sigma, a cockpit training simulator for the Ministry of Defence already in use at RAF bases. The company, based in Warrington, Lancashire, was asked to design Sigma after an earlier fighter simulator computer game became a best-seller.

When DID started work on TFX-EF2000 it was given access to declassified information by British Aerospace, the UK contractors for Eurofighter, who also sent representatives to yesterday's launch.

While researching the game, DID made contacts in the RAF that culminated in the company landing a contract for a laser-guided weapons simulator for pilots to practise precision bombing. The company is now involved in projects for all three armed services.

No computer game can imitate exactly what it is like to be a fighter pilot. But some tactics are as effective in fantasy as in real life. Lt Seymour scored his winning hit by lurking above Flt Lt Gordon's airfield, waiting for him to take off. The Americans used the same tactics against the Iraqis in the Gulf war.

Train death prompts call for new fire escape drill

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport correspondent

British Rail has been asked to improve emergency procedures on all its trains following criticisms in a report into a fire on board a train in Maidenhead, Berkshire, last year.

One man died in the incident on 8 September, when he jumped out of the train into the path of an oncoming train, after fire broke out on the high-speed train travelling from Paddington to Swansea.

Mike Holmes, the inspector who investigated the accident for the Health and Safety Executive, found that the cause of the fire was that a diesel tank fell off the front engine and the split fuel resulted in a severe fire which affected two coaches but fortunately, according to Mr Holmes, "did not spread on to seating".

As a result of faulty maintenance, the bolts holding the tank had fallen off or sheared and when all other similar trains were inspected a "small number of bolt deficiencies" were found, but "none posed a danger".

Mr Holmes's report says that there should be "improved instructions and procedures" for the fitting of fuel-tank securing bolts and that changes in the way tanks are held on to engines should be considered.

However, the main focus of his 10 recommendations is on the way that emergencies should be dealt with by train crew.

The passenger who died, Ian Jones, a civil servant, was killed in the ensuing panic which was made worse by the difficulties of communication between train staff and passengers.

There were criticisms from some passengers that the crew had been too busy identifying the cause of the fire to communicate instructions to passengers. One passenger later

wrote to the *Independent* saying other deaths had only been narrowly avoided.

Terence Cudhird said: "A passenger in front of me half opened the carriage door on the wrong side" but was persuaded not to jump. Seconds later the express from Bristol came by at high speed."

Mr Cudhird asked: "Do the rail companies have an evacuation policy at all?"

In fact, Mr Holmes clearly states that the emergency procedures are inadequate and recommends "a review of emergency equipment and de-railing facilities provided for passengers should be undertaken".

He adds that procedures concerned with "the control of passengers in emergency situations" should be reviewed.

One specific problem was that the staff can, at present, only communicate with all passengers through loudspeaker systems from a very limited number of locations and in an emergency it may be necessary to communicate quickly with the passengers. Mr Holmes has recommended that the use of pre-recorded or automatic announcements should be considered.

Mr Holmes also said the role, effectiveness and accessibility of hammers should be reassessed, as should be the accessibility of door handles and the use of signs and instructions. At present, British Rail is the sole train operator, although private companies are due to take over the Paddington Inter-City services next month.

An electrical short-circuit was blamed for a fire on board the 5.35am Bristol to London InterCity train yesterday. The blaze was put out by automatic fire extinguishers. There were no injuries and passengers were taken back to Bristol to continue their journey on another train.

DAILY POEM

Innocence: 1945

By Adrienne Rich

"The beauty of it was the guilt. It entered us, quick *schnaps*, forked tongue of ice. The guilt made us feel innocent again. We had done nothing while some extreme measures were taken. We drifted. In the Snow Queen's huge ballroom had dreamed of the whole world and a new pair of skates. But we had suffered too. The mirror was felt nothing. Felt we had done nothing. Nothing to do. Felt free. And we had suffered, too. It was that freedom we craved, cold needle in the bloodstream. Guilt after all was a feeling."

Adrienne Rich, one of America's most respected poets, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1929 and was educated at Radcliffe College. She has published 16 volumes of poetry and four prose works, the most recent, from which this poem is taken, being *Dark Fields of the Republic: Poems 1991-1995* (Norton, £7.50). Her staunch support of the rights of the individual, across racial and political divides and her ability to peer into the chaos engendered when these rights are ignored, has caused Nadine Gordimer to describe her as "the Blake of American letters".

Dark Fields of the Republic by Adrienne Rich is also available on audiocassette, read by the author, at a combined price of £18.95 for hardback and cassette (Norton).



A NEW ROVER 100 KENSINGTON.
FROM £79* A MONTH WITH FREE INSURANCE,
IT'S GOT TO BE WORTH A SECOND LOOK.

What's this?

It rather looks like a young policeman's fancy is turning towards a new Rover 100 Kensington.

And what does he find?

Luxury wheel trims, tinted glass, stereo radio/cassette, 5-speed box and if we're not much mistaken, a rather fashionable Windsor interior trim.

But as it comes with a year's free insurance, an engine immobiliser and a remote controlled alarm, she won't be needing us for an escort.

Also to be seen around town is the Kensington S.E., with tinted sunroof and remote central locking into the bargain.

They're both available in pearlescent Nightfire Red and White Diamond. Or in this case, metallic Kingfisher Blue.

Matches her eyes.

The figure's quite attractive too.

It starts at just £79* a month.

Sigh... I think I'm in love.

CASH PRICE*	£6,973.00
DEPOSIT REQUIRED	£2,799.00
AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£4,197.11
3 MONTHLY PAYMENTS*	£79.00
GUARANTEED MINIMUM FUTURE PURCHASE PRICE	£1,396.00
CHARGE FOR CREDIT	£1,017.48
TOTAL PAYMENT	£6,244.49

APR 14.8%

MIN ADMINISTRATION FEES ARE ADDED TO THE FIRST PAYMENT AND ARE NOT RECHARGED ON SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS. AGREED PAYMENT FREQUENCY: MONTHLY AND NO FEES ARE CHARGED FOR PAYING EARLY. APR APPLIES TO CREDIT AGREEMENTS WHICH DO NOT APPLY TO STOP/PAY PURCHASES.

For a free test drive or a brochure phone now on 0345 186 186



*CAR SHOWN. APPROX. X KENSINGTON 3 DOOR. VAT/LIST PRICE, CONNECT AT TIME OF ORDER, INCLUDES £100 COST OF NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY TO DEALER AND 6 MONTHS ROAD TAX. THIS IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF FINANCIAL ACCEPTANCE. ANNUAL ASSET OF OVER £1,000.00 TO STATIC CARS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE JUST 1% FIRM CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER. SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. THROUGH ROVER FINANCE LTD, A DIVISION OF AUSTIN ROVER GROUP LTD, WEST MIDLANDS, B40 4EL. A MEMBER OF NATWEST GROUP. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

23 Coddington Crescent
Cheadle Hulme
Cheadle
Cheshire.

Dear Volkswagen,

I need your help. Please, please don't run any of your advertisements announcing the price of the Polo.

Since I bought mine, my mother has been so proud of me. Her only son has made good. You see she thinks all Volkswagens are expensive and I haven't had the heart to tell her it only cost £7700. If the neighbours find out of her friends' (God forbid) She'll be struck off the coffee morning list and life won't be worth living.

So my mother's life is in your hands, I'm depending on you.

Yours desperately
T. Snaad.

Timothy Snaad.



Child

RENT COOPER

AA

JUST £36

£360 AAA BE

international

Hostage crisis: Liberals seek no-confidence vote and privatisation minister resigns as Russian onslaught on rebels continues

Duma attacks Yeltsin over rescue fiasco

HELEN WOMACK
Moscow

Communists and liberal reformers alike heaped criticism on President Boris Yeltsin yesterday for his handling of Russia's latest hostage crisis when the newly-elected State Duma met for the first time.

Underlining the pressure on Mr Yeltsin, his high-profile privatisation chief, Anatoly Chubais, yesterday resigned, putting a question-mark over the future of economic policy.

Comments from the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, that it would be better if Mr Yeltsin did not stand for a second term in June's presidential election were predictable. But the decision by the liberal Yabloko grouping to seek a vote of no-confidence in the government over the crisis in Pervomayskoye was a blow. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia bloc was counting on co-operation from Yabloko to restrain the Communists and nationalists in the new parliament.

Looking further ahead, many analysts believe Mr Yeltsin would only have a chance of winning the presidency again if the Yabolo leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, sacrificed his own presidential ambitions and supported him against Communist and nationalist candidates. But yesterday's outburst from Yabolo left little hope of that.

While Russian troops continued to battle with Chechen rebels in an attempt to free scores of hostages still trapped in Pervomayskoye, Yabloko declared the present Kremlin administration incapable. "Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin are dangerous for society, both with their action and their lack of action," it said in a written statement.

With only 45 deputies in the 450-seat Duma, Yabloko is far from the majority of 226 votes needed to carry a motion of no-confidence. But if the dominant

Communists, with 158 seats, and some nationalists and independents backed the move, the government could be in trouble.

Mr Zyuganov did not commit himself to an immediate attack, however, saying only he would like to see Mr Yeltsin stepping down to give fresh politicians a chance in the election.

"It would be better for Boris Yeltsin and the whole country if Boris Yeltsin did not put himself forward for another term at the presidential election for health reasons," he said.

More government heads may roll over the débâcle in Pervomayskoye. But first the Russian army must complete the rescue operation it launched on Monday. Underestimating the Chechen rebels, Mr Yeltsin promised the storming would be over with minimum bloodshed the same day. But yesterday, with only 26 of the estimated 100 hostages released safely, crack troops had still to overcome the militants, being led by Salman Raduyev, a warlord related by marriage to the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

In what would be more bad news for the Kremlin if it was confirmed, 30 workers at an electricity-generating plant in the Chechen capital of Grozny were feared to have been taken hostage by rebels trying to help their comrades in Pervomayskoye by creating a diversion. But Tass news agency said another possibility was that the workers who disappeared yesterday morning had simply walked off the job after a row with the management.

In Pervomayskoye, on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya, the hostages were emerging in drabs and drabs. Some were rescued by Russian forces, others released by the gunmen who said they wanted them to tell the world of the "truth" about how they had been treated.

The fate of the remaining hostages remains unknown. According to the Russian Interior Ministry, four federal soldiers have lost their lives while 60 rebels have been killed. In response to the Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections, he reshuffled the cabinet, dropping liberals, to make the government team less vulnerable to hardline criticism. Last night Mr Yeltsin accepted the resignation of the liberal First Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Chubais, which could mean a

slowing down of the economic reforms he oversaw.

Mr Chubais, in remarks carried by Russian news agencies, said he felt Mr Yeltsin was unhappy with his work, and hoped that that situation was not prompted by "concessions to the Communists". His resignation will ring alarm bells with western investors.

More government heads may roll over the débâcle in Pervomayskoye. But first the Russian army must complete the rescue operation it launched on Monday. Underestimating the Chechen rebels, Mr Yeltsin promised the storming would be over with minimum bloodshed the same day. But yesterday, with only 26 of the estimated 100 hostages released safely, crack troops had still to overcome the militants, being led by Salman Raduyev, a warlord related by marriage to the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

In what would be more bad news for the Kremlin if it was confirmed, 30 workers at an electricity-generating plant in the Chechen capital of Grozny were feared to have been taken hostage by rebels trying to help their comrades in Pervomayskoye by creating a diversion. But Tass news agency said another possibility was that the workers who disappeared yesterday morning had simply walked off the job after a row with the management.

In Pervomayskoye, on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya, the hostages were emerging in drabs and drabs. Some were rescued by Russian forces, others released by the gunmen who said they wanted them to tell the world of the "truth" about how they had been treated.

The fate of the remaining hostages remains unknown. According to the Russian Interior Ministry, four federal soldiers have lost their lives while 60 rebels have been killed.

Asked how the operation to free the hostages would affect Mr Yeltsin's election chances, the Communist leader said: "I think nothing can boost his chances because his policies have become completely bankrupt and collapsed."

Mr Yeltsin, who has only just returned to work after recovering from his second heart attack, has said he will announce next month whether he intends to stand.

In response to the Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections, he reshuffled the cabinet, dropping liberals, to make the government team less vulnerable to hardline criticism. Last night Mr Yeltsin accepted the resignation of the liberal First Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Chubais, which could mean a

slowing down of the economic reforms he oversaw.

Mr Chubais, in remarks carried by Russian news agencies, said he felt Mr Yeltsin was unhappy with his work, and hoped that that situation was not prompted by "concessions to the Communists". His resignation will ring alarm bells with western investors.

More government heads may roll over the débâcle in Pervomayskoye. But first the Russian army must complete the rescue operation it launched on Monday. Underestimating the Chechen rebels, Mr Yeltsin promised the storming would be over with minimum bloodshed the same day. But yesterday, with only 26 of the estimated 100 hostages released safely, crack troops had still to overcome the militants, being led by Salman Raduyev, a warlord related by marriage to the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

In what would be more bad news for the Kremlin if it was confirmed, 30 workers at an electricity-generating plant in the Chechen capital of Grozny were feared to have been taken hostage by rebels trying to help their comrades in Pervomayskoye by creating a diversion. But Tass news agency said another possibility was that the workers who disappeared yesterday morning had simply walked off the job after a row with the management.

In Pervomayskoye, on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya, the hostages were emerging in drabs and drabs. Some were rescued by Russian forces, others released by the gunmen who said they wanted them to tell the world of the "truth" about how they had been treated.

The fate of the remaining hostages remains unknown. According to the Russian Interior Ministry, four federal soldiers have lost their lives while 60 rebels have been killed.

Asked how the operation to free the hostages would affect Mr Yeltsin's election chances, the Communist leader said: "I think nothing can boost his chances because his policies have become completely bankrupt and collapsed."

Mr Yeltsin, who has only just returned to work after recovering from his second heart attack, has said he will announce next month whether he intends to stand.

In response to the Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections, he reshuffled the cabinet, dropping liberals, to make the government team less vulnerable to hardline criticism. Last night Mr Yeltsin accepted the resignation of the liberal First Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Chubais, which could mean a

new model £9.99 inc. VAT

When it comes to the best mobile phone deals, nobody beats Cellphones Direct. Just take a look at these January special offers, for example. We've slashed the price on the feature-packed Nokia 232. We have an exclusive package deal on the top-selling Sony CM-R111K, Britain's smallest phone. Or you can be among the first to buy the exciting new, lightweight Nokia 909.

Whichever phone you choose you get free connection to Vodafone LowCall Tariff.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

PRICE £19.99
AFTER £10 CASHBACK
£9.99
INC. VAT

NOKIA MODEL 909.

♦ 40 name/number memory ♦ 60 mins talk-time ♦ 10 hrs standby-time ♦ Complete with slim battery and fast charger ♦ Lightweight 159g

FREE CONNECTION TO VODAFONE LOWCALL WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE

Monthly Rental £15 (£12.77+VAT)

Peak Rate Calls 50p per min (42.5p+VAT)

Off Peak Calls 20p per min (17p+VAT)

LowCall peak rates are 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Monthly rental includes calls and be charged at £1.77 inc. VAT per minute. Low rate included monthly in advance. Calls to UK landlines will be deducted to pay for calls or credit or debit card. Calls charged in 30 second units after the first minute.

PLUS SONY REMOTE COMMANDER SONY EARPHONE MICROPHONE SONY LONG AERIAL TOGETHER WORTH £139.99

Cellphones Direct

Relief as race to succeed Papandreu starts

ANDREW GUMBEL

Greece's ruling party geared up yesterday for a lightning campaign to elect a new prime minister by the end of the week, following the long-awaited resignation of Andreas Papandreu from his bed in an intensive care unit in an Athens hospital.

The leading anti-Papandreu dissident in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), the former industry minister Costas Simitis, and the man likely to be his chief rival, the Defence Minister Gerasimos Arsenis, both formally announced their candidature for a race which must take place within three days. A former defence minister, Yannis Charalambopoulos, also joined the list.

The party's executive committee will meet today to thrash out the exact timing and the rules for the contest.

The news that Mr Papandreu had bowed to the inevitable and agreed to step down was greeted with relief in political and business circles.

The country has all but ground to a halt since mid-November, when the 76-year-old premier, already ailing, was first admitted to hospital with lung and kidney failure.

Pasok officials looked anxious to get the succession race out of the way as quickly as possible to avoid splits within the party. The Athens stock market index, meanwhile, jumped up two percentage points on the day.

For a long time, no one had



The contenders: (from left) Gerasimos Arsenis, anti-Papandreu dissident Costas Simitis, and Akis Tsochadzopoulos, who could become number two in Pasok

dared believe that Mr Papandreu would ever relinquish his hold on the government and on the socialist movement which he founded following the collapse of the colonels' junta in 1974. Although he was barely able to move or speak, suggestions that his career was over were at first considered taboo. But as the prospects for his recovery waned, and

Greece's international credibility was increasingly compromised, the party finally plucked up the courage to present Mr Papandreu with the hard truth of the situation.

Originally, it seemed that President Costas Stephanopoulos would see Mr Papandreu in his room at the Onassis Clinic. But on Monday afternoon, a group of senior ministers, accompanied by two of Mr Papandreu's children and his controversial but devoted young wife Dimitra, obtained his signature to a short statement.

The word "resignation" did not feature, but Mr Papandreu made clear he did not want his declining health to hold the whole country hostage and urged Pasok to pick a successor quickly.

Whoever succeeds him will be unable to wield his unique and autocratic powers, if only be-

cause there was no mention in the letter of Mr Papandreu's other job as leader of Pasok. According to party sources, he will stay on as president, at least in name, and a separate election will be held in due course to appoint a deputy.

Mr Simitis, a 59-year-old commercial lawyer educated in Germany and at the London School of Economics, is the most likely candidate to win the premiership because he stands the best chance of leading Pasok to victory in the next general elections.

Not only does he have a reputation as an intelligent reformer, but as a relatively centrist member of Pasok he stands the best chance of wooing voters away from the con-

servative opposition party, New Democracy.

His status as a dissident within Pasok may not harm him if it is understood that a Papandreu loyalist, such as the Interior Minister, Akis Tsochadzopoulos, would become the party number two. Mr Tsochadzopoulos is likely to put himself forward for the premiership too, as is the parliamentary speaker, Apostolos Kaklamanis.

Since Pasok has never had to hold a leadership election of any kind before, the executive committee will have to decide how many ballots to hold. The most rational solution would be a run-off second round between the two front-runners, but rivals within the party could drag the process out for longer.

Weizman outburst stuns Germany

IMRE KARACS

Bonn

The President of Israel lashed out at Germany's past crimes against the Jews yesterday, souring a state visit that Bonn had hoped would open a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

"It is not easy for me to be in this land and listen to the memories and the voices screaming to me from the earth," Ezer Weizman told stunned MPs. "As President of the state of Israel, I can grieve for them and commemorate them, but I cannot forgive in their name."

Mr Weizman was addressing a joint session of the two chambers of parliament, the first visiting head of state to be accorded that rare honour since German reunification and only the fourth since the war. But he appeared to be in no mood to pull his punches, reminding Germans of the way that "the Nazis and their helpers murdered a large part of us".

"I can only urge you, ladies and gentlemen deputies of the German parliament, that you look to the future with a knowledge of the past," the Israeli President said. "That you recognise every stirring of racism and

smash every stirring of neo-Nazism."

Although Mr Weizman did at one point address the MPs as "friends", his speech made it clear that he harboured little friendly sentiment towards the country responsible for the murder of 6 million Jews. That much he had already made clear just before his departure from Israel on Sunday, when he seemed to criticise Jews who have settled in Germany.

"I, for example, cannot understand how 40,000 Jews can live in Germany," Mr Weizman told Israeli radio.

His gaffe brought furious reactions from German Jews, who rushed to the aid of their adopted country. "I have lived here since 1945 and have met two oew georgians who simply do not identify with the Nazis," said Ignatz Bubis, the leader of the Jewish community in Germany. "This is a new Germany and is different from Nazi Germany."

Mr Weizman tried to make amends by visiting both the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where thousands of Jews died, and Plötzensee prison, where German resistance fighters were held and executed.

But despite rolling out the red carpet, the German govern-

ment also missed a chance to encourage a mood of forgiveness. As the Israeli President landed in Berlin, 35,000 Jews living in Israel and the US were still waiting for the first instalment of the war compensation first mooted in 1989.

The pensions to Jews from Latvia and Romania who had so far received no money from Bonn, are delayed as MPs on the government side argue about which part of the state budget ought to pay them. The government promises that the bureaucratic wrangle, described by a leading opposition politician as a "foreign policy idiocy", will be resolved within the next two weeks, too late for Mr Weizman's visit.

In a final blow to this journey of reconciliation, the Israeli President cancelled at short notice a visit to Bonn's Museum of History. Although the exhibition is brutally frank about the Second World War, some foreign visitors have been put off by its triumphant portrayal of Germany's rise from the ashes.

Mr Weizman claims his programme was too crowded. A more likely explanation is that 50 years after the war there are still a few things about Germany that Jews find hard to accept.



Bitter words: President Weizman addressing the German parliament in Hebrew while Chancellor Kohl uses an earpiece to listen to the speech
Photograph: AP

No room for quiche in Kohl cuisine

Bonn — "We have travelled through nine regions, collecting recipes, and you can see the result here in front of you," said Hannelore Kohl, as she pointed at the cookery book she has written with her husband, Helmut. Alas, the hungry paparazzi instinctively turned towards the corpulent figure of the German Chancellor, writes IMRE KARACS.

"How much do you weigh?" he was asked. "That's a state secret," Mr Kohl replied tersely. In fact, the *Independent* can reveal after exhaustive investigation that the Chancellor weighed in for last year's general elections at 125 kilos, just under 20 stones.

Since then, however, Mr Kohl may have put on a pound or two, eating his way through the regions in a gargantuan effort to catalogue the best of German cuisine. The result is *A Culinary Journey through the German Countryside*, a fat tome containing more than 300 recipes. It is not for the quiche brigade. From Ähzesuppe, made with peas and a lot of cream and butter, to Zwiebelsuppe, which relies on yet more butter and cheese for consistency, almost every page could have been sponsored by a society of heart

surgeons. There are a few recipes leaning towards nouvelle cuisine, but one suspects those were the ones Mr Kohl admitted to not liking very much.

The Chancellor is more of a greasy Wurst man. His favourite dishes are Saumagen, fried potatoes and pasta, all consumed in copious quantities and washed down with spritzer. He is also a man of tradition as well as substance, with a mission to tell the world about the sort of food his mother used to cook.

Through the book, whose profits will go to a charity chaired by Hannelore, the Kohls hope to demonstrate that there is more to the national culture than punctuality and thoroughness.

Germans love their food more than foreigners realise, and the dishes are better than they are given credit for, the Chancellor said.

The book launch, at a hotel renowned for its inflated prices and deflated soufflés, provided a few samples of the couple's work. Apart from the minor detail that the dishes came from what used to be known as Austria-Hungary, and not Germany, the fare was not exactly mouth-

Helmut's home cooking

PALATINE SAUMAGEN (PIG'S STOMACH)

Ingredients (for 3 1/2 to 4 kg)

1 pig's stomach (to be ordered in advance at your butcher's)
30g clarified butter
1/2 kg pork
1 1/2 kg potatoes
1 1/2 kg minced meat
2-3 tbsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp marjoram
1/2 tsp ground cloves
1/2 tsp thyme
1/2 tsp ground cardamom
1/2 tsp basil
1 ground bayleaf
50 g onions (diced)

1. Cut the pork into fairly large cubes. Peel the potatoes and dice them. Mix the pork, the potatoes and the minced meat and add the spices.

2. Rinse the stomach thoroughly. Tie up two of the stomach's openings with thread, end put the filling in through the third hole. Tie up this as well. (Do not overfill it or it will burst.)

3. Put the pig's stomach into recently boiled water and simmer for three hours then drain it.

4. Fry the stomach in clarified butter and bake in pre-heated oven at 200 Celsius (400 Fahrenheit). Serve with fresh bread, Palatine potatoes, sauerkraut and wine of the Palatinate.

Cook's tip (by Hannelore Kohl):

"Should there be any leftovers, the stomach can be cut into slices and fried to a golden brown the following day."

which followed was awful: tasteless and runny. Perhaps lovers of German culture should stick to Wagner after all.

The pork goulash

Mitterrand's cancer kept secret

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris

François Mitterrand was diagnosed as suffering from incurable bone cancer only six months after taking office in 1981 and was judged "incapable of exercising his functions" as head of state half a year before he left office, according to his long-time personal physician, Claude Gubler.

Dr Gubler's revelations, along with two "smashed" photographs of Mitterrand laid out on his death bed, were published in a special edition of *Paris Match* yesterday and shocked many French people, provoking a ferocious debate about personal privacy, medical ethics and the question of honesty and openness in politics.

They also threatened to tarnish irrevocably the reputation of the former president, who authorised publication of regular reports on his health but declared

the crucial information - about his cancer - a "state secret".

The cover of *Paris Match* broke another taboo by showing Mitterrand's widow, Danielle, comforting his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine, at the graveside.

Initially, it was the photographs of Mitterrand on his deathbed - laid out in dark suit and striped tie, hands peacefully folded - that shocked; less because they went beyond the bounds of good taste than because they had been taken at all. Only family and personal friends of Mitterrand were allowed access to the room where he died, yet one of those had recorded the scene and passed the photographs to *Paris Match*.

There was an immediate protest from the family - signed by Danielle, his two sons, and Mazarine (signing herself for the first time as a Mitterrand) and his mistress and Mazarine's mother, Anne Pingeot. The

magazine defended its decision to publish in an editorial which described the pictures as "having impressed with their beauty, strength and gravitas".

The French media generally show a respect for personal privacy, even of the most public figures, that would be unthinkable in Britain. It was this same respect for privacy, which may gradually be declining, that allowed the existence of Mitterrand's mistress and his daughter to be hidden from the French public - though not from Paris political circles - for almost 20 years.

But it was the revelations of Dr Gubler, Mitterrand's personal physician until 1994, that caused the louder outcry. Politicians lined up to condemn the "breach of medical confidentiality" and deny that Mitterrand was in any way incapable of exercising power, even in the last months of his presidency. Dr Gubler's account, how-

SALE

ENDS SATURDAY

£50 OFF ALL PC'S

GET DOWN TO YOUR LOCAL ESCOM STORE AND MAKE A KILLING!

intel inside

pentium

COMMODORE P75 PCI MINI TOWER & IP 3300 INKJET PRINTER BUNDLE

SPECIFICATION AS P60 BUT WITH:

- Intel 60MHz Pentium® Processor = 1Gb (1024Mb) Hard Disk Drive = 8Mb RAM = 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive = 14" Monitor = Mini Tower Case = Keyboard = Windows 95
- Quicken 4.0 CD Rom = Microsoft Encyclopaedia
- Novell Perfect Office = 12 Months On-Site Warranty

WAS £799.00 + VAT £938.83 inc.VAT

£749.00 + VAT £880.08 inc.VAT

COMMODORE P60 MULTIMEDIA MINI TOWER

SPECIFICATION AS ABOVE BUT WITH:

- Quic Speed CD ROM Drive = 16 Bit Sound Card = Speakers

WAS £948.00 + VAT £1113.90 inc.VAT

£898.00 + VAT £1055.15 inc.VAT

COMMODORE IP 3300 COLOUR INKJET PRINTER

WAS £199.00 + VAT £257.33 inc.VAT

£189.00 + VAT £233.83 inc.VAT

CHOICE OF SOFTWARE BUNDLES ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

OVER 200 STORES NATIONWIDE

FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0990 100888

BUSINESS USERS BUY DIRECT ON 0990 555888

OFFERS VALID UNTIL 20/1/96

easyware FROM ESCOM

THE EASY WAY TO CHOOSE A PC

OPEN PC/MINI 3.5" 200mhz 16mb 1.44mb 5.25" 1.44mb 100mb 100mb 100mb

WINDOWS 95 OR DOS 3.1 16mb ram 1.44mb 3.5" 1.44mb 100mb 100mb 100mb

OPTIONAL COLOUR KIT £30 + VAT £35.25 inc.VAT

NORMAL PRINTER PRICE £199.00 + VAT £233.83 inc.VAT

SPECIAL DEAL

Disney Lion King Print Studio with HP Deskjet 600

PRICE WHEN PURCHASED WITH AN ESCOM PC

WAS £189.00 + VAT £222.08 inc.VAT

£179.00 + VAT £222.08 inc.VAT

OPTIONAL COLOUR KIT £30 + VAT £35.25 inc.VAT

NORMAL PRINTER DEAL PRICE £229.00 + VAT £269.08 inc.VAT

MULTIMEDIA UPGRADE OPTIONS £99.00 + VAT £116.33 inc.VAT

Offers valid until 20/1/96

Hotel Breaks with THE INDEPENDENT

Two nights for the price of one



Border
Millmead Country Hotel
Goose Hill, Portesham,
Dorset DT3 4HE
0305 871432 £60.00
Jan-May

Family hotel in Hardy country. All rooms have en suite facilities and the small, cosy restaurant offers English cuisine prepared by the chef patron.

Cumbria
Nent Hall County House Hotel
Alston, North Pennines,
Cumbria CA9 3LQ
01434 381584 £75.00
Jan-May

Quaint, situated and elegantly furnished, Nent Hall is an ideal touring base for the north. The stylish restaurant serves high quality English cuisine.

Herefordshire
Bellbrook Lodge Hotel
35-37 London Road,
Bath, Avon BA1 7HZ
01225 856090 £50.00
Jan-May exc Fri & Sat
This imposing Georgian hotel is set in pleasant surroundings just one mile from Bath. The dining room overlooks the lawn and offers traditional English cuisine.

Wales
The Old Malt House Hotel
Nant-y-Timau,
Nant-y-Bwlch, B43 10F
01761 70106 £66.00
Jan-May

Set in beautiful country between Bath and Wells, this hotel has a restaurant that specialises in English country cooking.

Lancashire
The Haven Inn
Barrow Haven,
Lincolnshire DN19 7EX
01469 530247 £49.50
Jan-May

This rural coaching inn has fine country views and does old world charm. The restaurant offers English cuisine.

Leicestershire
Brythys' Hotel
1-3 Victoria Avenue,
Blackpool, Lancashire, FY2 9QQ
01253 352684 £50.00
Jan-May

This warm and friendly hotel is just off the promenade in the quiet North Shore area.

Sussex
Black Mill House Hotel
Princess Avenue, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 2AB
01243 823640 £60.00
Jan-May exc 26-28 April & 24-27 May

In the heart of the coast, this family hotel has easy parking and welcomes dogs. The restaurant offers traditional English and French cuisine and an interesting wine list.

Dorset
Cottonwood Hotel
81 Grove Road, East Cliff,
Dorset, Poole, BH4 3AP
01202 553183 £60.00
Jan-May

This hotel has panoramic sea views and en-suite facilities in all rooms. The restaurant offers traditional cuisine.

Cumbria
Whitewater Hotel
The Lakeside Village, Newby Bridge,
Cumbria LA2 8PZ £90.00
Jan-May

This converted mill and health club sits at southern end of Lake Windermere. It is informal, comfortable and friendly and serves both modern and traditional cuisine.

Yorkshire
Park Grove Hotel
28 Park Grove, Fazlughall,
Bradford, W Yorks, BD9 4JY
01274 543444 £85.00
Jan-May

All rooms in this family-run hotel have en-suites. The restaurant serves English and Asian cuisine.

Sussex
Granville Hotel
124 Kings Road, Brighton,
East Sussex BN1 2FA
01273 326302 From £55.00
Jan-May

Luminous on the sea front, the Granville offers individually designed rooms, four poster beds and Jacuzzi. Vegetarian meals are available.

Cornwall
Mae Lodge Hotel
Maerdown, Crooklets Beach,
Bude, Cornwall EX22 8NG
01289 553306 £60.00
Jan-May

The hotel is set in private grounds overlooking a golf course and is near the beach. The restaurant specialises in traditional English cuisine.

Derbyshire
Staden Grange Country House Hotel
Staden Lane, Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 9HZ
01292 265500 £50.00
Jan-May

This country house hotel is set in beautiful countryside near Buxton and has a small, informal restaurant.

Kent
Aubrey's Freestate Hotel
High Street, Blean
nr Canterbury, Kent, CT4 8TD
01303 840265 £55.00
Jan-May

Pre-renaissance gables contribute to the hotel's great charm. The cuisine is traditional with open roasts in a huge open fireplace on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Cumbria
The Grammar Country House Hotel
Cartmel, Cumbria
LA11 7SG
01539 532637 £68.00
Mar-May

This 17th century country hotel offers tranquility and beautiful scenery. The cuisine is English and features quality home cooking.

Cheshire
Eaton Hotel
29-31 Old Road, Chester
CH1 2HJ 3AE
0244 220840 £65.00
Jan-May

This comfortable hotel is in the heart of historic Chester and offers English and French cuisine.

Derbyshire
Albion Hotel
Crown Street, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S40 4TD
01248 272849 £66.00
Jan-May

This hotel is an ideal base for trips to Chatsworth House and the Peak District.

Glostershire
Kings Head Hotel
Market Place, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire, GL7 2JR
01285 663322 £60.00
Jan-May exc 11-14 March
The popular town centre coaching hotel specialises in traditional English cuisine.

Shropshire
The Red Lion Hotel
Clentbury Mortimer
Shropshire, SY4 8AA
01299 270395 £78.00
Jan-May

This family-run hotel is in a conservation area and has an award-winning restaurant.

Leicestershire
Whitewall Hotel
Springbank, Whitehall, Darwen,
nr Blackburn, Lancashire BB3 2JU
01254 710595 £70.00
Jan-May

A country house hotel in a setting of established grounds, it has an elegant restaurant serving English and French cuisine and fresh local game and fish.

Wiltshire
The Lamb at Hindon
Hindon, Nr Selbury
Wiltshire, SP3 6DP
01747 820573 £65.00
Jan-May

The Lamb is a 17th-century coaching inn with open log fires and a restaurant which uses fresh local game and fish.

Sussex
Downland Hotel
37 Lewes Road, Eastbourne
East Sussex BN21 2BA
01273 732699 £75.00
Jan-May

This charming hotel was awarded 2 AA rosettes and serves modern English cuisine.

Devon
Great Western Hotel
St David's Station Approach
Exmouth, Devon EX4 4NU
01392 740328 £49.00
Jan-May exc 13-19 May
Just 10 minutes from city centre, the Great Western prides itself on offering excellent value.

Cornwall
Penmonian Manor Hotel
Budock, nr Falmouth,
TR11 5ED
01326 250277 From £70.00
Jan-May

The manor is a secluded country house set in 5 acres of garden and woodland offering superb cuisine.

Cumbria
Moss Grove Hotel
Great Northern, Cartmel LA22 9SW
015394 35251 £68.90
Jan-May, 24, exc 27 March-13 April
This is a family-run Victorian hotel in the heart of Lakeland offering genuine Lakeland fare.

Hampshire
Woolmerford Hotel
53 Bargate, Grimsby,
South Humberside, DN34 5AO
01642 350683 £60.00
Jan-May

The hotel is set in a wide range of leisure facilities and an excellent conservatory restaurant.

Wiltshire
Glastonbury House Hotel
70 Hamham Road, Salisbury,
Wiltshire, SP2 8JN
01722 333388 £35.00
Jan-May

The hotel is set in 1.5 acres of grounds with views of watermeadows and Salisbury Cathedral and has a charming conservatory restaurant.

Somerset
The Devonshire Arms Hotel
Long Sutton, Nr Langport,
Somerset TA10 9LP
01984 242173 £35.00
Jan-May

Built as a hunting lodge in 1787 by the Duke of Devonshire, the hotel is famous for its excellent, cuisine.

Glostershire
Jessop House Hotel
68 Church Street, Tewkesbury,
Gloucestershire, GL2 5RZ
01584 292017 £75.00
Jan-May

This town house hotel is an ideal base for exploring the Cotswolds. Its restaurant specialises in local produce.

Nottinghamshire
Cedars Hotel
Mason Road, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY11 6AG
01562 515995 £63.50
Jan-May

Simple, wholesome food and a high level of comfort and hospitality are the hallmarks of this hotel.

Surrey
Bookham Grange Hotel
Little Bookham Common, Bookham,
Nr Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 3HS
01372 367742 £65.00
Jan-May

This country house hotel is an ideal base for visiting Wistow and the Surrey countryside. Restaurant serves English and Continental cuisine.

Northants
Green Farm Hotel
The Great North Road, Leeming Bar,
South Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 1DT
01877 422122 £48.50
Jan-May

This family run hotel promotes adventurous English cooking using fresh local produce from small suppliers.

Essex
Coppsedge Inn
Mellsome, Shifnal, Shropshire,
Dorset, SP7 0HW
01747 851980 £70.00
Jan-May

This converted 17th-century farm set in 15 acres offers guests a cozy, candlelit restaurant with log fire in winter.

Yorkshire
The Stage Hotel
Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham,
Nottinghamshire, NG7 6LB
0115 960 3261 £47.50
Jan-May, Fri, Sat Sun only

The hotel is on the outskirts of Nottingham.



Ashcroft Hotel, York

We would like to invite you to take a short break in the country at a top-class, owner run hotel and stay two nights for the price of one. Simply pay for one night's bed and breakfast and you will get the next night, including breakfast, free. Rates are based on a double room.

All Minotel hotels participating in this offer and they are located throughout England, Wales and Scotland. They are part of the Minotel consortium and many will allow

you to enjoy a longer stay on the same basis: pay for two nights and stay for four, for example. You can check with your chosen hotel when you make your initial reservation.

There are more than 100 Minotel hotels participating in this offer and they are located throughout England, Wales and Scotland. They are listed and briefly de-

scribed on this page.

All hotels offer top-class comfort and pride themselves on providing a personal service that many larger establishments cannot match.

To qualify for our 2 for 1 break, you must collect FOUR differently numbered tokens from the seven we are printing and attach them to a voucher which we will print in *The Independent*'s edition of *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

dent with details on how to book. Today we print Token 4.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.

Today we have pictured the Ashcroft Hotel in York. This Victorian manor set in 2 acres is family run and the comfortable, spacious restaurant looks out over gardens and the river Aire. A double room for one night costs £75. We will feature another hotel tomorrow in *The Independent* and give you a fifth token.</

Mrs Dole replaces Hillary in spotlight

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

As Hillary Clinton ponders whether to submit to a Senate grilling to try to rid herself of the Whitewater affair, oddly similar allegations of financial favouritism and cronyism are being raised against the woman who could replace her as First Lady if the Republicans win the White House in November.

In substance if not style, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, wife of

Senator Bob Dole, the only woman to have held different Cabinet posts in separate administrations, is as redoubtable a figure as Mrs Clinton. Currently head of the American Red Cross, she vows to continue in the job if her husband is elected. If so, she becomes what even Mrs Clinton has not dared to be: the first First Lady to have combined that job with an outside career. But like Mrs Clinton, she could be dogged by business dealings from the past.

The controversy revolves around David Owen, for 20 years one of Senator Dole's closest political operatives in Kansas before he was convicted of tax fraud. For much of that period he managed Mrs Dole's assets, which had been placed in a blind trust while she served in government.

According to the *New Yorker*, Mrs Dole may have been given special treatment on several occasions. They involve the recovery with interest of a

\$250,000 (£160,000) loan to an Owen company whose failure cost other investors dear, the purchase by the trust of shares in an insurance company which benefited from 1986 tax laws of which Senator Dole was a prime instigator, and a real estate deal involving a company that had been awarded a lucrative affirmative-action contract thanks to the Senator.

The Owen case briefly swirled during Mr Dole's last bid for the presidency in 1988.

But it disappeared after his decisive defeat by George Bush in the New Hampshire primary that year. This time Mr Dole is a strong favourite, and is perhaps more vulnerable to allegations of influence-peddling and conflict of interest, which echo those against the Clintons in Arkansas in the 1980s.

The charges are denied by Mrs Dole. But Mr Owen, recently freed after serving a 12-month jail term, tells the *New Yorker* that he was "fed to the

wolves" by Senator Dole during the 1988 campaign. He was a "political victim", whose life had been "ruined by politics".

The words could have been uttered by Jim McDougal, the Clinton's partner in the Whitewater land venture and owner of the failed Macdonald Caravan Park who is under indictment in Arkansas, insisting that he did nothing wrong.

Mr McDougal's protestations have only fuelled the Republicans' pursuit of Mrs Clinton.

Yesterday, the Senate Water Committee began a new round of hearings, while the First Lady made her clearest offer so far to testify in person, if it would clear her name.

"I will do whatever it takes to co-operate," Mrs Clinton said, at the launch of her book on children's welfare, *It Takes A Village*, although it would be "a bit like having your teeth drilled". If she does undergo the ordeal, Mrs Clinton may be an unexpectedly sympathetic spectator.

Woman's plea to die is rejected

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

Guinevere Garcia's hopes of death by the executioner's needle were dashed by the Governor of Illinois yesterday when he commuted her sentence to life imprisonment.

Governor Jim Edgar exercised his legal prerogative to overturn a decision taken by the Illinois judiciary, and later by Garcia herself, less than 24 hours before the death sentence – for murder – was scheduled to be carried out.

The pardon was a victory for Amnesty International and other human rights groups which have been battling to deprive Garcia, a lifelong victim of atrocious sexual abuse and battery, of her wish to die. At a Prison Review Board hearing last Thursday Garcia, who murdered her husband in 1991, said in a statement tape-recorded in her prison cell that those who were petitioning for clemency on her behalf should stop interfering.

"Stay out of my case. Stay out of my life," she said. "I committed this crime... I am competent to waive my right to appeal."

In making his decision yesterday, Mr Edgar said: "It is not the state's responsibility to carry out the wishes of a defendant".

"Guinevere Garcia should never be free again," the governor said in a statement, "but I have concluded that the punishment decreed for her was not typical."

The extenuating circumstances in Garcia's life which the governor identified but the courts failed to detect included: her mother's suicide when she was 18 months old; rape by an uncle between the ages of 6 and 11; gang-rape at the hands of five teenage boys when she was 14; going into prostitution when she was 15; and a vision of life as so desperate and cruel that when she was 17 she suffocated her newborn baby girl in what she saw as an act of mercy. After 10 years in jail for the child's murder she married George Garcia, who perpetrated a pattern of brutal abuse against her until she shot him.

Earthquake anniversary: Lack of vision and the might of big business have thwarted attempts to build a city for the people

Ugly phoenix rises from Kobe's ashes

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Kobe

"By the summer, after the dust had settled," says Hiroaki Kimura, the architect, "some of us began to think that, after all the suffering, this was an opportunity to create something really new and special. People made drawings and models and presented them to the city. No interest. Frustration. This was a great chance, and we lost it."

People in Mr Kimura's profession learned a lot from the Kobe earthquake, one year ago this morning, but the starker lesson of all was that nobody pays much attention to architects. The practical lessons of the 6,300 deaths – 85 per cent of them from collapsing buildings and the fires that tore through them – will never be forgotten.

The traditional wooden Japanese houses, for instance, with heavy tiled roofs which crunched and then trapped their inhabitants, have become unthinkable since 17 January 1995, as designers concentrate on light, flexible structures with assemblages that, as the engineering post-mortems show, were surprisingly effective at absorbing shock.

But the imaginative visions of the architects were ignored. Even the designs of an inter-

nationally famous name like Tadao Ando cut no ice with the city engineers, whose "Phoenix Plan" to reconstruct the 215,000 buildings rendered uninhabitable by the quake, plays depressingly safe. "Just more high-rises," says Mr Hiroaki. "No vision, or idea of the future, just the same old thing."

There are persuasive arguments for caution in rebuilding Kobe, the strongest of which is lack of money. Total damage from the quake totals \$99bn (£64bn); after subsidies from central government, the city is still hovering dangerously close to insolvency. Even with architects such as Mr Hiroaki offering their services free, few people were in the mood for the dreams of fancy architects.

But recent months have seen a growing view that there is more to post-quake Kobe than lack of imagination. Critics of the local government see a conspiracy theory – to recreate the city in the image desired by bureaucrats and big business.

Since the mid-1960s the city has gained a reputation as Kobe Inc., aggressively drawing in investment with a series of bold restructuring plans that have all but wiped out the old 19th-century port. A famous scheme to "move the mountain to the sea" came to a triumphant conclusion

with the completion of Port Island - a purpose-built city, constructed on millions of tons of rock ferried out into the bay. The only space left for new development was the old residential neighbourhoods in Kobe

itself. "There is no doubt that the city has capitalised on the disaster to achieve what it had not been able to do before because of stiff resistance," said this week's *Asahi Evening News*. "City officials simply dug out the old blueprints, dusted them off and made some modifications to add the big high-rises."

Japan's construction industry is notorious for its close relationship with politicians and bureaucrats on one side and, on the other, the crime syndicates who mobilise its workers. The contracts are handed out by the local government, represented by the post-war reconstruction. "The new Kobe,"

says Hiroaki Kimura, "will be a city built by men looking at maps on tables, and men in helicopters looking from the sky. You can't design a happy city like that: you've got to start on the ground, where the life is."

Indian MPs face graft trial

IM MCGIRK
New Delhi

Even senior Indian opposition politicians were charged with corruption yesterday for allegedly taking pay-offs from a money-changing racket. Investigators also want to prosecute the President, hankar Dayal Sharma, to avert their immunity.

With a general election due April, the scandal has caused sensation. Among those implicated are leading rivals of the Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, both within his Congress party and in the opposition. They include Lal Krishna Advani, leader of the main opposition group, the right-wing Indira Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP). Devi Lal, an ex-deputy prime minister in the left-wing former Janata Dal government, and Arjun Singh, who recently broke away from the Congress party after quarrelling with Mr Rao. The ministers whose prosecution is sought are viewed within Congress as Mr Rao's possible challengers.

They are Madhav Rao Scindia, the Human Resources Minister, Bajrang Jatkar, Agriculture Minister, and VC Singh, Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Mr Scindia dismissed the allegations as "a contemptible attempt to tarnish the reputation of an honest man".

Detectives said up to 18 other politicians and senior bureaucrats could be charged.

Mr Advani yesterday resigned from his parliamentary

seat to fight the accusations. He accused the Prime Minister of levelling the charges to sabotage the BJP's chances in the election. Polls indicate that the BJP could deny Congress its majority. "Mr Rao is trying to scuttle the BJP's proposal to make corruption an issue in the elections," he said.

The politicians are accused of taking bribes from a family of powerful industrialists, the Jains, who allegedly operated a money-changing racket before India's 1992 economic reforms made the system obsolete.

The industrialists were charged in 1992 with laundering undeclared "black" money into foreign currency for hefty commissions, paying politicians and bureaucrats to look away.

In raids on the Jains, inves-

tigators found a diary with details of pay-offs amounting to more than £11.5m allegedly made between 1988 and 1991 to the country's top politicians and bureaucrats. But the diary did not give the culprits' names, only their initials.

If convicted, the politicians face up to five years' jail, police investigators said. Left-wing and opposition parties are demanding the resignation of all three ministers named by police.

Although the investigation into the money-changing racket has dragged on for years, political observers in New Delhi said it was likely that the Prime Minister had manipulated the timing of the charges against his rivals in order to dash their hopes of unseating him in the April election.

In this manual as your guide, you too can enjoy a gratifying and rewarding freelance career in publishing. Proofreading is particularly rewarding, as is copy-editing. What's more, I will save time and money by avoiding the mistakes made by most beginners – myself included, at the time.

To order your copy of *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing* send your name, address, book title and your payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) of £15 inclusive of postage and handling to Carnell plc, Dept ECE23, Aylesford, nr. Canterbury, Kent ME7 1AP or telephone their 24 hour hotline on 01206 825600 (quoting Dept. code), allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the manual anytime within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.

The purpose of making the

move is to safeguard the state

sovereignty, protect the legal

rights and interests of the Chinese economic-information users and promote the healthy development of the country's undertaking of economic information which release information which slanders or jeopardises the national interests of China".

The State Council circular also makes the official Xinhua news agency the all-powerful regulator in an increasingly profitable business sector. The new rules give Xinhua authority to set subscription rates, and presumably to take its slice of revenues. It already controls dissemination of news agency wire services within China, for instance from Reuters and Associated Press, and keeps half the revenue earned from domestic customers.

Reuters said the rules could

have "serious editorial implications". Xinhua will supervise the sale of economic information provided by foreign news services; news providers will have to register and be approved by Xinhua and China will "examine and approve" the "varieties of their economic information".

The order also allows Xinhua to punish foreign economic news providers "if their released information to Chinese users contains anything forbidden by Chinese laws and regulations, or slanders or jeopardises the national interests of China".

The order also allows Xinhua to punish foreign economic news providers "if their released information to Chinese users contains anything forbidden by Chinese laws and regulations, or slanders or jeopardises the national interests of China".

The purpose of making the

move is to safeguard the state

sovereignty, protect the legal

rights and interests of the Chi-

na

en

re

fund

if not satisfied.

With the publication of this

manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

experience (and my mistakes)

in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*.

This manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

experience (and my mistakes)

in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*.

This manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

experience (and my mistakes)

in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*.

This manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

experience (and my mistakes)

in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*.

This manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

experience (and my mistakes)

in a new publication: *Freelance Proofreading and Copy-editing*.

This manual provides a clear

and concise overview of the

language of pub-

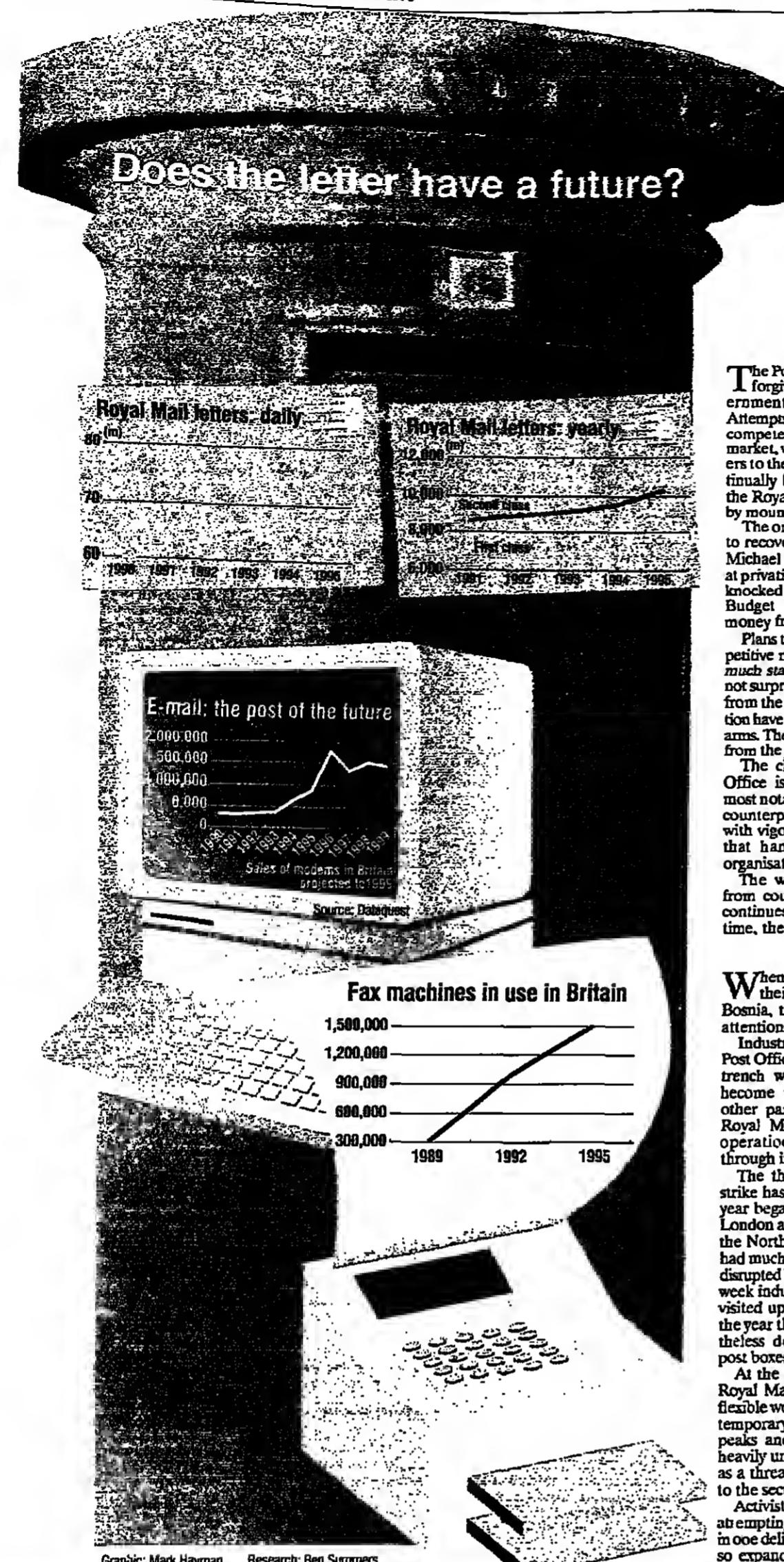
lishing jargon... discover-

ing how to break into the

world of freelancing...

now you can learn from my

Professor Howard Pursey

**DIARY****Daniel gets real (again)**

There's acting, there's method acting and there's Daniel Day-Lewis. Having chained himself to a wall to prepare for the part of one of the Guildford Four



Dan uses his hammer. Winona knows an easier way ...

and run around with no clothes on to read himself into *The Last of the Mohicans*. I am glad to hear that Day-Lewis's research technique shows no signs of flagging, though this time it has taken a rather puzzling turn.

The crew currently filming Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* off the coast of Massachusetts have found that Day-Lewis, playing the farmer, John Proctor, has insisted on building sets with them. Apparently under the impression that 17th-century New England farmers spent all their time in frenzied

woodworking, so far he has helped to construct a dozen clapboard houses, a tavern and an outhouse.

Having mastered Proctor's carpentry skills, Day-Lewis turned his attention to understanding, feeling and experiencing his personal circum-

Good buy

Was Goodbye To All That, the memoirs of the Labour leadership contender Bryan Gould, a prophetic title? It was only published by Macmillan last year, but yesterday I discovered it in Books Etc in Oxford Street – reduced from £16.99 to £3.99. Cheaper, alas, than most paperbacks ...

Garden looks far from rosy

Poor Jeremy Isaacs (I hear he does not like the adjective beleaguered) will not have long to recover from the maundering suffered by the Royal Opera House on last night's fly-on-the-wall BBC documentary. Tonight the ROH chief faces a further savaging at the hands of the classical music promoter and opera impresario Raymond Gubbay. They will be on opposite sides at an Oxford Union debate on the National Lottery's propensity for doffing its cap to elitist institutions.

Gubbay is virtually the only member of the arts establishment prepared to go public about waste, extravagance and restrictive practices in the arts. He tells me he will pull no punches at the debate tonight. "Certainly, there are restrictive practices at the opera house. And it seems to me incredible that while schoolchildren are going without books, the Royal Opera House is moaning, yes



Another kicking for Jezza

in 2005 (put it in your diary). Even Nelson's uniform and pipe will be laid out in his cabin as they were in the eve of battle. But when it comes to the appearance of the lavatories they are at a loss.

"Endless books and diaries have been consulted, but to no avail," says an insider. Meanwhile, they are opting for the round shape. "We have decided," says a senior admiral, "to take a gamble."

Finger on the pulse

I see the *Daily Telegraph* is still having trouble telling the difference between dead and alive. Barely a month ago the paper precipitately published the obituary of Lord Colyon, still at that point very much alive. And yesterday Paul Johnson was published on the letters page apologising to Lord Steff. "I hasten to reassure Marcus Steff's countless friends that he is still very much with us. I apologise to him and to Lady Steff for this lamentable slip." To make matters worse, in his original article Johnson described Lord Steff as a friend of his. Johnson blames "an inexplicable confusion of thought" for his error, a goodly phrase which sounds so much better than some of the alternatives that spring to mind.

Eagle Eye**Generation Why**

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

**news analysis**

The Post Office's future is shrouded in doubt. That is what lies behind the threats of industrial action to be raised today

The last post

The Post Office executives might be forgiven for thinking that the Government has got it in for them. Attempts by the one-time monopoly to compete in an increasingly cut-throat market, with rivals ranging from couriers to the Internet, are hampered continually by uncertainty over whether the Royal Mail is to be privatised and by mounting frustration in the ranks.

The organisation, desperately trying to recover from the controversy over Michael Heseltine's botched attempt at privatisation at the end of 1994, was knocked sideways in the November Budget by plans to squeeze more money from its operations.

Plans to make the service more competitive must now be viewed against a much starker financial backdrop. It is not surprising that renewed mutterings from the Government about privatisation have not been welcomed with open arms. They are an unwelcome diversion from the job of running the business.

The challenge faced by the Post Office is enormous. Foreign rivals, most notably its part-privatised Dutch counterpart, are invading its market with vigour and without the shackles that hamper attempts by the UK organisation to expand overseas.

The well-established competition from courier and parcel companies continues unabated and, at the same time, the threat of new technology is

What future for the business?

accelerating. The fax machine is now so ubiquitous, at home and at work, that many people are confident they could ride out a strike at the Royal Mail. The escalation of connections to the Internet allows growing numbers of people to send messages for as little as 1p. A strike might simply accelerate the trend away from the letter.

The Royal Mail is a large purveyor of junk mail

The Royal Mail has not been impotent in responding to the competition. Letters volumes have risen in the 1990s. The Royal Mail has benefited from the growth of direct-mail marketing: it is a large purveyor of junk mail. It has also attempted to become part of the technology revolution, in a relatively modest way. A programme to install computers in the nation's network of 20,000 post office counters might take it further into the electronic age. More directly,

there is a £200m investment programme to introduce better technology in an effort to get mail moving faster. However, these efforts to compete

with the private sector were made more difficult by the Chancellor's decision dramatically to increase the amount the Post Office had been expecting to pay into the Treasury's coffers over the next few years. Instead of a projected payment (the so-called External Financing Limit) of about £175m a year, the Treasury is demanding around £300m each year between 1996 and 1999. That amounts to about the same as the Post Office has provided over the last decade, at a time when competition has never been so fierce.

The pressure means the Post Office either has to improve efficiency on a continuous basis, which will require investment and may provoke industrial relations problems, or it has to raise revenues substantially. The unpalatable fact is that the main source of revenue is still the postage stamp, the price of which will almost inevitably rise later this year, provoking concern among customers and glee among competitors.

The problem for John Roberts, the Post Office's new chief executive, goes beyond the Treasury's thirst for cash. There has been a long-held vision of offering a "seamless" service ranging from designing and printing stationery and letters to storing and posting large quantities of mail for very large users. Its Dutch counterpart can play all

these roles and in Britain just uses the Royal Mail to make the final deliveries. But at the moment the Post Office is constrained by the Government from forging the kinds of business alliances it needs to play such a role. For instance it would like to have an airline as a partner rather than being just another user of charter flights. But that is ruled out by Government rules.

According to a Post Office spokesman: "What we really want to do is think much more widely about integrating all kinds of communications. At the moment we still have to ask for permission to get involved in new activities. All too often it is not forthcoming."

The Post Office made a pre-tax profit of £472m in the year to 31 March 1995. There has been no price rise since November 1993, so results for last year – yet to be announced – may not show a substantial increase. But in the first half of this financial year the pre-tax profits were £194m.

The question is how long profits can keep on rolling as long as the Treasury's demands soar and as more nimble players invade the marketplace. If there is to be a renewed attempt at privatisation, it may need to be sooner rather than later if there is to be a business with growth potential to attract investors.

MARY FAGAN

Johnson, joint general secretary of the CWU – his colleague Tony Young represents BT workers – is a right-winger and keen to avoid a national dispute. Mr Johnson is a moderniser and a supporter of Tony Blair. He has said he is confident a settlement can be reached.

Many leading local activists do not share his optimism. Left-wingers enjoy a majority of around two-thirds on the CWU committee covering the Royal Mail, and even some of Mr Johnson's political allies are increasingly of the mind that it is time to take on the Post Office. These activists believe that instead of fighting a series of local disputes which the union has to disown for legal reasons, the leadership should unite in a national campaign. They also believe the public might support industrial action if it were aimed partly at defending the second post.

This may leave Mr Johnson with something of a dilemma. He is not a trade union leader who revels in national disputes. He knows from experience that big customers armed with faxes, e-mail and private postal services can survive for a while without the Royal Mail. If he emerges from his talks proclaiming peace in his time, however, many local activists will not believe him. More local disputes are almost inevitable and that might further undermine his own leadership of the union.

BARRIE CLEMENT

CALL THE WORLD FOR A FEW BOB LESS BOB.

Destination	First Telecom	Mercury	Save %
USA	£1.28	£3.40	62%
India	£7.39	£11.34	35%
South Africa	£4.81	£7.05	32%
Hong Kong	£4.22	£6.56	36%
Japan	£4.34	£8.77	51%
Australia	£2.34	£5.73	55%
Brazil	£7.16	£9.94	28%
Canada	£1.75	£3.40	49%
Germany/France	£2.22	£2.59	14%
Israel	£6.69	£8.25	19%

(Price comparison based on a 10 minute call)

- * Savings to 100's of countries
- * All major credit cards and Delta accepted
- * "Minute Miles" bonus available
- * No start-up costs, membership or joining fees
- * Business and Residential customers welcome.
- * Operations available, 24hrs n day, 7 days n week.

F R E E P H O N E
0800 376 66 66



BEFORE YOU PHONE THE WORLD, PHONE US.

Globally Speaking is a service provided by First Telecom plc. First Telecom charges standard rates of 147 pence/min. for calls to exchanges based upon British hours (our standard rate is 1.02p per minute midweek or 1.12p per minute weekend).



THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-246 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-246 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater · MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes
SECTION TWO EDITOR: Simon Kerner · SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson
EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams · NIGHT EDITOR: Richard HolledgeNEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC, BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Liam Healy (Chairman) · Lord Borrie · Ben Bradlee · Juan Luis Cebrián · Brendan Hopkins
David Montgomery · Javier Díaz de Polanco · Cornel Rödin · Andreas Whitton Smith
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

When lawyers let us down

Imagine it: you've finally managed to sell your house. After months of waiting, the deal has been done and contracts have been exchanged. All those anxious months of waiting are over. Then you find that the solicitor you put in charge of the transaction has made a terrible error and everything goes horribly wrong. Where do you go to complain, to win redress?

Don't bother. That, in a phrase, is the conclusion we should draw from yesterday's report from the Law Society about its Solicitors Complaints Bureau. The survey's figures are shocking. More than two-thirds of those who appeal to the bureau are dissatisfied with the result. Only one in five believes the SCB is impartial in its handling of the complaints. And tales abound of clients who waited months for a response to their complaints only to find their case referred back to the original solicitor with no further action taken.

More than half of those who complained believed the SCB was heavily biased in favour of the solicitor. Hardly surprising when the SCB is staffed by solicitors, funded by solicitors and responsible to the Law Society – in effect the trade union for solicitors.

This is a damning indictment not only of the SCB but of the profession. All professions are based on the claim that the training and expertise of their members means they can be trusted, whether that is with your accounts, your health or your legal affairs. An independent complaints procedure is particularly important for a profession because the client or patient is in a vulnerable position. Without expert knowledge of the legal intricacies of con-

veyancing, for example, it is hard for the average house buyer to know whether the local solicitor has advised them well or not. And as purveyors of essential legal services, solicitors are a monopolistic profession. That means regulation to protect the consumer is vital.

That is not something the SCB is capable of delivering. It argues that most complaints should be dealt with directly by the solicitors involved. This is all very well, but as the survey of almost 800 complainants shows, solicitors firms are even more hopeless at responding to complaints than the SCB. Hardly any of the complainants thought their solicitor had made a proper effort to investigate their original complaint.

Two reforms are vital. The first is the introduction of a genuinely independent body to adjudicate over complaints. The two functions of the Law Society – regulating the profession and representing its members – should be separate. This has already happened for doctors. The British Medical Association stands up for doctors, while the General Medical Council considers questions of malpractice. Regulating the profession in the interests of the consumer should be done by a genuinely independent organisation.

Second, any regulatory body needs teeth in the form of stronger sanctions against solicitors who do their jobs badly. Fines, reimbursements to clients, or simply publishing complaints could all have an effect.

These proposals should be part of the Law Society's plans for reform due to be published in the spring. They will be vital if the profession is to restore its credibility with its customers.

One Nation Tories in search of a home

On Thursday night the great She-Elephant stopped for a brief moment to trumpet her defiance at the rest of the world. This week some minor Tories, like outraged gnats, have taken to the wing, buzzing with shrill indignation at all the noise.

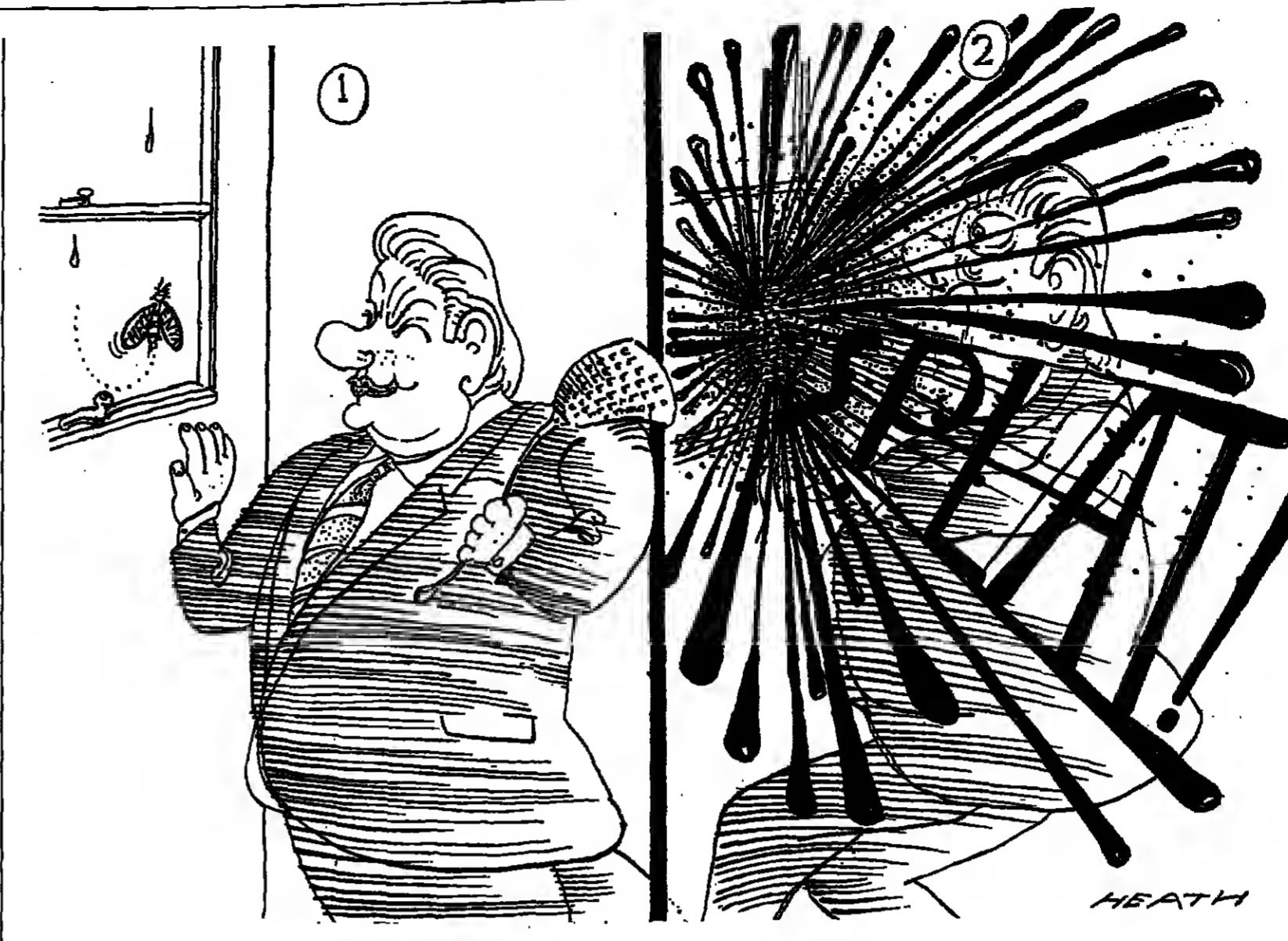
One of these was the "One Nation" minister Alistair Burt, who wrote to the *Times* complaining of the "breathtaking exclusiveness" of Baroness Thatcher's political horizon. She was, in his view, a class warrior who was wishing upon her party the fate reserved by the electorate for all class warriors – defeat.

The trouble is that her attack upon the One Nation Tories has exposed a former emperor with no clothes, for the Tory left no longer has much of an idea what it stands for. David Hunt (once the great hope of the wets) spoke of the need to hold on to the centre ground of British politics, to attract the 40 per cent of the vote needed for victory, for "the centre ground is our ground". Fine as far as goes, but it goes no further than pointing out the electorally obvious. We are promised a more coherent defence of traditional Tory values from the Macleod Group of back-benchers, the modern inheritors of One Nation Conservatism. It has the task of not merely rebutting Lady Thatcher but also proving that defectors such as Emma Nicholson and Alan Hewart were wrong to desert the party.

It is a tall order because it is not clear what One Nation Toryism stands for beyond a more compassionate conservatism. In the past, it was a marriage

between a Tory defence of British institutions (including the system of checks and balances that inhibited the executive) and a centre-right commitment to a paternalistic version of the post-war consensus on the welfare state. But Thatcherism and the market have dealt body-blows to these favoured institutions of the wets and where they survive, in the health service and social security, they are crying out for reform. Even the exiled standard-bearer of left-wing Toryism, Chris Patten, has waded in from Hong Kong to put a big question-mark over how much of the welfare burden the state ought to bear.

Pro-Europeanism is too narrow to sustain a political philosophy with popular appeal. This need not mean that One Nation Tories have nothing to say on the subject. Indeed, the Conservative left plays a vital role in challenging the xenophobia of its right-wing. MPs such as George Walden have been the most articulate critics of the Pottist-like dislike of foreigners. Others have worried openly about the populist nature of the Howard penal agenda, and wondered whether, say, the shackling of women prisoners is really an essential feature of modern Toryism. If these mutterings and musings were taken up by a conviction politician, they could be turned into a moral and political crusade. But One Nationists are not crusaders, so they are left just wringing their hands. There is a further difficulty. There is already a home for those who oppose the illiberalism of the current administration. And Emma Nicholson has just gone to live there.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

British spurn call to rise and shine early

From Dr T. J. Dennis

Sir: In "It's time for Scotland to turn the clocks forward" (15 January), Brian Wilson MP reveals what seems to be a widespread ignorance of basic geography in his comment about the inhabitants of "northern Sweden who survive happily on [Central] European time". Leaving aside the fact that northernmost Sweden is inside the Arctic Circle, and at the moment gets no sunlight, he forgets that the country is almost exactly one time zone east of Greenwich, so its choice of European time is entirely appropriate: citizens of Stockholm on CET and the Orkneys on GMT, at about the same latitude, thus have identical local sunrise and sunset times.

He also seems unaware of the one-hour time shift introduced in the UK in the late Sixties, and which was abandoned circa 1972 after public protest.
Yours sincerely,
T. J. DENNIS
Birch, Essex
15 January

From Mr J. R. Lucas

Sir: It is not just light, but heat that matters. There are many days, even in the south of England, when it is foggy or icy in the morning, and it is difficult to get around until the sun has broken through, and the roads remain passable until an hour or two after sunset.

If we want to have working hours the same for most people throughout the year, we need to have them so that even in winter most people can manage to get to and from work most days. Nine to five GMT is a better fit than eight to four.
Yours sincerely,
J. R. LUCAS
Merton College
Oxford
18 January

From Mr John Tippler

Sir: Sweden is 15 degrees east of the UK – ie, an hour's natural time ahead of us. Copenhagen, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, and Rome, too, are all at about that same distance to the east.

If Brian Wilson's arguments

about the benefits are good, all those places should be thinking about putting their clocks yet one more hour further forward. Perhaps I should begin to lobby my Swedish friends immediately.

JOHN TIPPLER

Stockholm
Sweden

15 January

If the clocks were put forward an hour, I would be walking to work in the dark and still walking home in the dark, given that it is currently dark by 4.30pm.

I do not believe that my working hours are particularly unusual. Presumably, the women with whose vulnerability to attack on their way home Mr Wilson is concerned are all teachers?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE MERCER
Edinburgh
16 January

From Mr Donald MacNeill

Sir: If Brian Wilson is so keen to have people travel safely in daylight in mid-winter Scotland, why does he have to tamper with the clock to achieve it?

Would it not be simpler for people to start work one hour earlier in the morning? This way, we could all keep in touch with our Continental counterparts while allowing our rural dwellers, human and animal, to work a natural timescale – all in relative safety.

Mind you, an early start to the day would probably be too much for our MPs.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD MACNEILL
Livingston
West Lothian
15 January

From Ms Caroline Mercer

Sir: This morning I walked to work in daylight (8.30am-9am) but I will be walking home in the

dark (5.30pm-6pm).

If the clocks were put forward an hour, I would be walking to work in the dark and still walking home in the dark, given that it is currently dark by 4.30pm.

I do not believe that my working hours are particularly unusual. Presumably, the women with whose vulnerability to attack on their way home Mr Wilson is concerned are all teachers?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE MERCER
Edinburgh
16 January

From Mr Donald MacNeill

Sir: If Brian Wilson is so keen to have people travel safely in daylight in mid-winter Scotland, why does he have to tamper with the clock to achieve it?

Would it not be simpler for people to start work one hour earlier in the morning? This way, we could all keep in touch with our Continental counterparts while allowing our rural dwellers, human and animal, to work a natural timescale – all in relative safety.

Mind you, an early start to the day would probably be too much for our MPs.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD MACNEILL
Livingston
West Lothian
15 January

From The Rev Geoffrey Kemble Johnson

Sir: In some private park (known to the City Fathers) there resides Wren's Temple Bar Gate, removed before my time from the Strand and marking an entrance into the City of London from the City of Westminster, prior to its removal. May I suggest that this splendid arch might be a focal point of the redevelopment of Paternoster Square? Being part of the City heritage, as well as an appropriate structure next to Wren's magnificent cathedral, the archway would be visually and historically welcome.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY KEMBLE JOHNSON
Taverham, Norfolk

From Woolly data

From Mr Paul Brenton

Sir: If Adam Savill (letter, 14 January) is keen to eliminate woolly thinking from the debate concerning the UK's relationship with the European Union, he should take more care when presenting relevant data.

Official sources show that less than half of UK exports are sold in non-EU countries, not the 60 per cent that Mr Savill reports. For overseas investment, Mr Savill believes that 75 per cent goes outside of the EU. Investment figures vary greatly from year to year but over the five years prior to 1994, 56 per cent of overseas investment by UK companies went outside of the EU.

Lack of care with the figures leads to sloppy and possibly erroneous policy conclusions. For international trade it is clear that distance matters. Geography cannot be changed, whether you are for or against strong links with the European Union.

Any appeal for candidates is part of the normal process of "geeing" up the party after the Christmas break. We currently have enough approved candidates to fill the remaining seats, but want more people to come forward for approval so that the remaining local parties have the best possible choice.

Yours etc,
PAUL BRENTON
Research Fellow
Centre for European Policy
Studies
Brussels
15 January

From Lib Dems aplenty

From Lord Tope

Sir: I read with interest John Rentoul's article (12 January) about the supposed search for parliamentary candidates the Liberal Democrats are undertaking in London. May I assure Mr Rentoul that whenever the general election is called, every seat in London will have a Liberal Democrat candidate.

There is healthy competition for approval as a prospective parliamentary candidate and London is ahead of its targets for the candidate selection, with about half the constituencies in London having their Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate in place already.

An appeal for candidates is part of the normal process of "geeing" up the party after the Christmas break. We currently have enough approved candidates to fill the remaining seats, but want more people to come forward for approval so that the remaining local parties have the best possible choice.

Yours etc,
TOPE
House of Lords
London, SW1
12 January

From Time for romance

From Mr Tony Brandon

Sir: In today's issue (Home News, 13 January), you refer to the newly refurbished clock at Waterloo station in London as a romantic rendezvous for lovers which was immortalised in the Noel Coward 1946 film classic *Brief Encounter*, starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson.

The truth is that the hapless couple held their trysts some 200 miles north of the capital, where the location filming took place, on Carnforth station in Lancashire. Indeed, in her biography, Celia Johnson speaks warmly of the many happy hours she spent in the company of the station staff.

Yours sincerely,
TONY BRANDON
Haslemere,
Surrey
13 January

From Motorway Mass

From Professor N. Kurti

Sir: Your article about the celebration of the motor car ("Cars drive down the aisle and into a row", 15 January) mentions that two cars would be driven down the centre aisle of Coventry cathedral. This reminds me of the cartoon that appeared in the French weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* when the conversion of a quai near Notre Dame into a motorway was first mooted. It depicts the West elevation of the cathedral with lines of cars respectively entering and leaving by the two main portals and a notice "Please do not sound your horn during Mass".

Yours faithfully,
N. KURTI
Department of Physics
University of Oxford
Oxford
15 January

Dawn of a new era in road accidents

How is this new daylight arrangement going to work?

Well, for a start, evening road accidents will be transferred to the morning.

You mean, the accidents which would normally take place in the dark, grey evenings will now take place in the grim, grey mornings?

Yes.

Will there be a good reason for this?

Yes. When an accident takes place in the evening, it is difficult to get it dealt with, as most mechanics are knocking off for the evening and those that are available tend to charge overtime and double time. Then again, repair jobs that are done in the evening by bad or artificial light, by mechanics who are tired after a full day's work, tend to be shoddy and to lead to more accidents later on.

But if we transfer all these accidents to the morning period, that means you have the whole day in which to get them sorted out, by mechanics who are working at peak efficiency.

What does the phrase "peak efficiency" mean when applied to garage mechanics?

Very little. At best, it means that



MILES KINGTON

less than 50 per cent of their attention is devoted to Radio 1.

Will these new lighter evenings affect the British class system?

It may radically change the time of middle-class dinner parties. At the moment, when two middle-class units are asking each other out to dinner, one always asks the other what time they should arrive, and the other always says, "Oh, I don't know, about, let me see, eight?" and the first one says, "Eight o'clock, fine, see you then, then?" However, middle-class couples never arrive at eight. They always arrive late.

Why is this?

Because they are waiting for the babysitter to arrive before leaving and because they do not start changing until *The Archers* has finished at 7.30 and because they have to have time to fit in a fierce argument about whose turn it is to

lay off the wine and drive home. But with these new lighter evenings, it may well happen that the middle classes will start saying to each other, "See you about nine for dinner, then?"

How will this affect life in general? Very badly. If dinners start an hour later, they will also finish an hour later, and couples will be more tired on the way home. Therefore they will tend to crash more often on the way home, especially if they cannot remember which one of them is meant to be driving. Mechanics will not be available to come to their aid, as they are getting an early night's sleep to deal with the new rash of early-morning accidents.

In addition, babysitters will tend to fall asleep more at home, thus leading to a new peak in domestic accidents.

Will the new daylight arrangements satisfy farmers in the north of Scotland?

Nothing ever satisfies farmers in the north of Scotland. That is why they are automatically excluded from all statistical tables.

How will they affect garage mechanics in the north of Scotland?

Very hardly. The local farmers,

furious at being yet again ignored and mistreated by the English parliament, will drive even more carelessly and recklessly and this will lead to a rise in road accidents at all times, which will put an increasing load on local garage mechanics.

They will need

comment

Why Mr Masari is good for us

The courts are to test the Saudi dissident's case for asylum. His values will test all thinking liberals

The day before the deadline for his deportation to Dominica yesterday, Dr Mohammed al-Masari, the Saudi dissident, filed his asylum appeal. It will be some months before his case is heard and until then he will continue to run his campaign for the downfall of the corrupt and despotic regime of the Fahd monarchy.

In his north-west London flat, he and his followers break off to pray at regular intervals, bowing down to Mecca among the whirling, humming and clicking electronic appurtenances of a modern propaganda machine that sustains an underground cell structure in Saudi Arabia. Much has been written of Mr Masari's campaign, his torture and persecution by Saudi authorities. That the Saudis are a bad lot is not at issue among reasonable people not in their pay.

Rather less attention, though, has been paid to the question of what sort of state Mr Masari's Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights seeks to establish. I wanted to find out a little more about exactly what political values we in Britain are being asked to protect.

His campaign wants to establish an Islamic republic. In his theocracy, he says, the clergy would only be advisers, while politicians would be elected democratically by both men and women. Would all political parties be able to stand? Yes, of course – but only if they were Islamic parties, committed to ruling the country

strictly according to the laws laid down in the Koran. No one else? No.

His campaign is translated somewhat conveniently in English as the defence of "legitimate" rights, apparently using the language of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights. The Arabic word, however, is not "legitimate" as we understand it, but *shari'a* – giving citizens rights only under the Islamic law of the Koran.

Experts had warned me that terminological inexactitudes litter the work of Mr Masari's group, allowing them to sound easy on Western ears in English, yet lean more strongly towards Mecca when addressing the Arab world.

I tried to get some idea of what kind of freedoms there would be under Mr Masari's Islamic republic. Did he admire the late Ayatollah Khomeini? "Yes, he was a very brilliant and shrewd man, a unique personality." Was he right about the *fatwa* on Salman Rushdie? "No, it could not be said to apply in a non-Islamic state. But I think every country in the world should adopt strict anti-blasphemy laws so that no religions are offended, then we would not have these problems." (This does not quite tally with the impassioned, unqualified defence of freedom of speech he made in an article for this paper.)

On crime and punishment, he would not change current Saudi law. "Execution by beheading is very shocking, but it is the most merciful, Women must submit to sex with



POLLY TOYNBEE

more merciful than the electric chair, and it is clearly ordered in the Koran. These head-floggings, where the heads fly up from the sword, are very shocking to watch, and very educational for the people."

Ditto for other amputations for theft. "But people do exaggerate these things, I find," he says, complaining about the West's preoccupation with such punishments.

What about women? The Koran clearly states several times that women are a degree below men in all things. He explains that someone must always have ultimate authority. "That person cannot be the woman because the man is physically stronger and he will heat her up if she is in charge. He is the more cool and rational one. He earns the money, and spends it for the family. The mother must stay at home to look after her children, or otherwise they will have an unsound education and upbringing. This system protects her from conflict with the one with the muscle and the money."

Women must submit to sex with

their husbands at any time, in any manner, otherwise they commit a sin. That is because sex in marriage is an important safety valve in society to contain men's behaviour."

Western society, he says, is feeling the effects of badly brought-up children, divorce and single parenthood. "It may take a few generations, but single-parent families lead to the degeneration of the society."

What of his own family life? He has one wife in Saudi Arabia with a three-year-old son, Abdul. He has another wife in America with a two-and-a-half-year-old son called Abdul. Then there is a divorced wife in America with a daughter – "about seven or eight, I think" – and another divorced wife in Saudi Arabia. He has two young daughters with him in London, but I lost track of who their mother was, and a 25-year-old son in America and a 20-year-old son in Saudi. "Divorce is a very good thing in Islam," he says. "It happens very amicably, very easily. No one has to prove in court that someone has committed adultery, which causes so much anger. My divorces have been very friendly, I would say."

But I ask, if he is so strongly against single-parent families, how does he feel about having created two of them himself? He doesn't really follow my line of thought and looks mystified by my question. Hardly surprising, since I find it just as hard to follow his train of thought. We are talking to one another across such a chasm of right to say it – and to say it here.

cultural difference, across half the globe and down several centuries. And the gender divide makes all meaningful communication between us incomprehensible.

We progress to talk of adultery. He is very strongly against it: "There should be 80 lashes for sex outside marriage for those who are not married and 100 lashes for married people who commit adultery, but I do not support stoning."

So there you have it.

There are, of course, other strands of Islamic thought that interpret the Koran more generously. Although as an atheist, I doubt I would find any more sympathy for them. Tolerating people's religious beliefs doesn't mean having to be polite about them. Probing the full omniscience of Mr Masari's views is really just an exercise in testing liberal values to near-breaking point. For quite apart from the 30,000 armaments jobs at risk, there can be few groups less congenial to the ethos of liberal Western democracy than these Islamic fundamentalists.

So why harbour such vipers? Because, between gritted teeth, we have to practice the freedom of speech we somewhat smugly preach at them. The principles that are easy to keep are rarely the most important ones, and this is one of the toughest: along with Voltaire, we may detect virtually everything Mr Masari stands for, but we are obliged to fight for his right to say it – and to say it here.

Primitive? Then what are we?

The West Papuans holding a group of Europeans are fighting against extermination, says Aidan Rankin

West Papua has been much in the news this week, because of the kidnapping of a group of Europeans.

West Papua is a land of dramatic contrasts in geography and climate. On the south coast lies the Asmat region, swampy and famous for its wood carvings, whereas the Amungme and Dani peoples live in the northern highlands. Among the revered snow-capped peaks near the Freeport site is the home of Jo-Mun Nerek, the Amungme's ancestral spirit.

Many West Papuans are Christian, but links with the spirit world remain strong. However it is as misleading to generalise about West Papuans as it is about Europeans, for the

"Freeport is digging out our mother's brain. That is why we are resisting"

range of societies is equally diverse.

What can be said is that none of them in any way approximates to the European Stone Age, and that like all other societies they have their own dynamic of change. Accusing them of being cannibals, for example, is like accusing modern Britain of denying women the vote. They also share a profound respect for the land as the source of food and life. Some 80 per cent of their land is covered in forest, in which they practise subsistence agriculture, cultivating sago and sweet potatoes and raising large herds of pigs. But the Indonesians have a different kind of reverence for the land, because it sits on some of the richest copper and gold deposits in the world.

Nobody can condone the taking of innocent civilians as hostages for a political (or any other) goal. But the kidnapping is merely the latest phase in the secret war, a cycle of oppression, resistance and survival that began with the Indonesian occupation in the mid-Sixties.

Since then, the people of West Papua have waged an isolated campaign against one of the world's most ruthless colonial powers. In West Papua torture and detention without trial are commonplace, disappearance and intimidation routine and 43,000 indigenous people have been killed. After a six-month visit in 1988, the Swiss pilot Theodore Frey said: "I never met a single family which has not lost at least one member ... the Indonesians are bringing not development, but systematic extermination."

West Papua's 1 million people are Melanesians, like their eastern neighbours in Papua New Guinea. Melanesians constitute less than 1 per cent of the world's population but speak 25 per cent of its known

The writer works for Survival International, which campaigns for tribal peoples' rights.

An end to the Greek myth

Andreas Papandreou's regime was built on corruption. Now the reckoning begins, says Andrew Gumbel

No doubt there will be plenty of Greeks saddened by yesterday's news that Andreas Papandreou has finally resigned as prime minister. After all, he has been the towering personality of Greek politics over the past 15 years, stamping the nation's psyche with his quirky and autocratic style of leadership. The fascination he has exerted extends well beyond the confines of Pasok, the socialist movement he founded in 1974, and indeed has created a political climate that even his opponents have sought to emulate.

But as the Papandreou era ends, the reckoning will inevitably begin. Whoever succeeds the legendary Andreas will find the reality of modern Greece very different from the picture built up by more than a decade of defiant populist rhetoric. True, he has kept his country on the map of world affairs.

"Greece has no strategy, just power. We've become like a Third World bazaar"



Carrying cabbages in Crete: Greece has failed to build an industrial base

Photograph: Jeremy Nichol/Impact

but at a considerable price. Greece is distrusted and disliked abroad for its obstinate foreign policy and penchant for picking fights with its neighbours. Its political culture is steeped in corruption and clientelism, and its economy is backward and undisciplined.

Greece never had much of an industrial base, relying largely on shipping and tourism for its foreign trade revenue, but unlike other European nations in a similar position 10 years ago, such as Portugal and Spain, it has failed to make up for its deficiencies. Largely this has been the doing of Mr Papandreou, who has run Greece more like a private fiefdom than a country, handing out favours and state funds but failing to improve public services or build a modern industrial base. A formerly agricultural society has flocked to poorly built and polluted cities, only to subside off of Greece more like a private fiefdom than a country, handing out favours and state funds but failing to improve public services or build a modern industrial base. A formerly agricultural

state in the Cold War and Europe's economies were all booming. In the past two years, however, even Mr Papandreou has been unable to conceal the awkward truth: that the country is primitive, desperately short of money and reliant almost entirely on the European Union for its future. Thus Greece has been meekly – and quite successfully – following a strict austerity programme to cut public spending, bring inflation under control and initiate a privatisation programme. In return, the EU has ploughed in funds to finance such basics as proper roads, a metro system for Athens and a modern airport.

Such dependence on the outside world is not something that the Papandreou system has swallowed easily.

Many of the EU development projects are yet to get off the ground because the government has taken too long apportioning the various contracts.

Some deals, such as the airport project at Spata, outside Athens, or the Rio-Antirio bridge across the Hellenic strait, have been renegotiated from scratch since Pasok returned to power.

Two months ago, the public works minister, Costas Lalidakis, admitted that two trillion drachmas (more than £5bn) in development funds were yet to be disbursed and risked being lost altogether if Greece did not hurry up.

The privatisation programme has also progressed at a snail's pace, partly because of unrealistic expectations of the price that could be fetched by state corporations such as OTE, the telecommunications company, and partly because of Greece's peculiar structural problems.

When the Star Marmara shipyard came up for sale last September, it turned out that there

was no property deed for at least half the terrain it covered because it had been built over a landfill. A deal to sell

at a lunch for Arab ambassadors a short time afterwards. Right up to the end, his maverick, anti-Western streak has never really disappeared.

Such problems will not evaporate with his resignation. Even if his successor is a serious moderniser, such as Costas Simitis, the main anti-Papandreou dissident within Pasok, attempts at reform are likely to meet fierce resistance from the clientelistic structure established over the past 15 years, and from the pro-Papandreou lobby still in control of the ruling party machine.

There is also danger that an excessively austere economic programme could spark serious social unrest in a country as unevenly developed as Greece. At the moment, many ordinary people survive thanks to either the state sector or the black economy.

If the former is cut back and the latter savaged by strict tax evasion laws, the results could be very painful indeed.

Nine months ago, farmers, small shopkeepers and some state workers staged a series of lightning strikes in protest at new tax legislation.

Last November, Athens was rocked by the biggest university riot in 20 years

and a five-day orgy of violence at the Korydallos prison. These are worrying portents for the future, and the new Greek prime minister will have a delicate balancing act to perform. He is unlikely to feel much gratitude for the confused, corrupt and volatile legacy that Mr Papandreou has bestowed upon him.

ANOTHER VIEW Adrian Foster-Fletcher

Not all Newbury's businesses want a bypass

At a meeting in Newbury yesterday, a group of local businesses voiced our opposition to the Newbury bypass, much to the astonishment of local journalists. Why do we take our present position? Because often environmental concerns are also those of business.

Fundamentally, there has been no scission of the issues surrounding the Newbury bypass since the last public inquiry in 1988, which did not look at the transport alternatives and ad one single objective – "Which route should a north/south trunk road follow?"

Since then, a number of significant

changes have taken place across the country which now call the decision to build a bypass into question. First, the decision was made before the M25 was opened, which we all assumed would relieve traffic around Greater London.

Newbury does have a traffic problem, but typically only for one hour in the morning and evening and on race days. The traffic in neighbouring Reading is much worse. What is different in Newbury is the significant number of HGVs, particularly car transporters, coming through the town. Local opinion is divided as to how much of this is local and how much through traffic. Given that a

traffic survey has not been carried out since 1986 – and that was done in August to avoid school traffic being included – it makes it very hard to identify the scale of the problem.

In order for us to run our businesses effectively, we need an infrastructure that is not clogged by cars taking children to school nor held up by local commuters getting into the town centre (when they could be using a park and ride). We need to free truck roads from the HGVs that are a threat to our lives. (My brother-in-law was killed by an HGV in 1982 while working as an agricultural feed representative.)

We don't want to spend £101m of government money on a controversial road scheme that will not solve Newbury's traffic problems – in five years' time traffic will be back to present levels. That money should be invested in the rail network and in subsidies to businesses to provide shared transport for their employees and tax incentives for businesses that are based at home. As it is, Newbury has just opened a new business park at Greenham and it has not one single bus to service it.

The writer is managing director of Focus Executive, based in Newbury.

nature,

Tuition for children: At child's school - At home.

it's first.

Call now for a free brochure: 0171 723 7471.



Sponsored by the French Government

16 business

THE INDEPENDENT • Wednesday 17 January 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK, tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Investment: Anticipating the millennium

Remy Cointreau suffers a hangover

Market Report: Prices soar on rate hopes

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Alliance blocks float payouts to the carpetbaggers

JOHN WILLCOCK
Financial Correspondent

So-called "carpetbaggers" who poured several million pounds into new accounts in the Alliance & Leicester Building Society over the last couple of days in the hope of bonus payments when it converts to bank status will not receive a penny, it emerged yesterday.

The news came as City

sources revealed that the UK's third-biggest society will impose a retrospective cut-off date, 31 December 1995, for bonus payments on its proposed £3bn flotation.

The frenzied crowds of account-openers that spilled onto the pavement on Monday at Alliance's branch in Kingsway, London, for example, will receive no bonus payments. Even after Alliance raised the

minimum balance for new membership accounts recently to £5,000 it was still getting "significant inflows," according to City observers.

The Alliance's 3 million-odd existing members will receive an average cash payment of around £800, higher than previous estimates of £500.

Alliance's intention to demutualise, first reported by the *Independent* on 26 September

last year, will be officially announced in a couple of weeks.

The society will put the proposed float to a vote by members towards the end of the year. Alliance is then scheduled to float on the stock market in mid-1997, five to six months before the flotation of Woolwich Building Society.

Observers point out that Alliance started to close share accounts as early as last December

in order to forestall "carpetbaggers" who were opening accounts in the hope of a pay-off. Yesterday Alliance officially announced the withdrawal of its last membership accounts to new investors, in order to prevent speculation."

The closed accounts include Tessa, Bonus 90, Bonus 180 and Midas share accounts. "This action follows the closure of the society's Keysaver account on 15

January and effectively closes the door on all speculative investments," the society said.

New savers can still open a Prime Deposit account, introduced on 4 December, which does not confer membership rights, the society said.

The only way to still take advantage of a flotation bonus is to take out a mortgage with Alliance, according to analysts, although this would be an

extreme approach. "Existing customers of the Alliance & Leicester can continue to operate their accounts normally and are unaffected by these changes," the society said. This means existing customers can switch money between accounts as much as they like, it said.

Customers with maturing Tessa accounts can roll these over into replacement accounts which still confer membership

18

18

19

COMING

Prospect of lower rates ignites the markets

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

Hopes that a round of international interest rate cuts will start in Germany tomorrow, ahead of a weekend meeting of ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries, ignited financial markets yesterday.

The prospect of lower rates, triggered by a looming economic crisis in Germany, took the mark lower against the dollar and other currencies. The dollar touched DM1.46 before falling back slightly. German share prices set a record.

The pound also strengthened against the mark. Shares in London jumped, the FT-SE 100 index ending nearly 48

points higher at 3,710.6. Paris and other Continental stock markets also climbed, but Wall Street was down 21 points to 5,027 at midday.

Richard Kersley, equity strategist at BZW, said: "A mood of optimism about low-interest rates has revived."

Fears about the danger of recession mean interest rates in the US, Britain and the rest of Europe are widely expected to fall within the next few weeks.

Most City of London economists believe Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will probably not move after their meeting today, but a quarter-point base rate reduction is likely in February or March.

The fact that Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister,

let slip a day early news that unemployment had fallen for the 28th month in succession in December, did nothing to dent the view that the economy's weakness justifies lower rates.

Evidence that the German economy is slowing sharply has raised expectations that the Bundesbank will trim its repo rate, a market rate at which it deals with banks, after its council meeting tomorrow.

Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, fuelled the sense of anticipation in financial markets when he told German television that interest rate could fall if growth of the M3 money supply measure remained below target. Analysts think the official discount rate is likely to be reduced before the end of March. The Bank of France is also expected to act tomorrow.

The G7 finance ministers and central bankers meeting in Paris at the weekend will discuss the danger of a global slowdown. French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, said French and German economics ministers would meet separately to discuss the economic troubles affecting both countries.

The G7 meeting is one of a clutch of international policy sessions, starting with yesterday's monthly meeting of central bankers at the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt, and leading on to an EU finance ministers' meeting on Monday.

Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB Securities in London, said: "How to transform the dead-weight of the German economy back into the engine of European growth will be at the top of the G7 agenda."

Recent evidence indicating that Germany's GDP was, at best, flat in the final quarter of last year after falling in the third quarter has caused consternation among policymakers, not least because it suggested the country will find it difficult to satisfy the Maastricht criteria for joining the European single currency. In 1995 the German government budget deficit was 3.6 per cent of GDP, above the 3 per cent target.

Scottish & Newcastle, which became Britain's biggest brewer following its acquisition of Courage last summer, is to cut 1,600 jobs and close two breweries as part of the integration programme. The cuts represent 20 per cent of the group's 8,000 beer production employees.

The company plans to close the Fountain Head brewery in Halifax, which produces Webster's and Wilson's bitter as well as Foster's and Molson lager. Also to close is the Home brewery in Nottingham, which brews Home Ales and Matthew Brown beer.

The Fountain Head brewery, which will close by October, has been making beer since 1828 and employed 184 people. Nottingham's Home brewery, which will be a phased closure, has been brewing local ales since 1875. The remainder of the redundancies will be made at 13 distribution depots that will also close.

The company said: "It is sad,

particularly as these are long-standing industrial locations with a strong tradition and heritage. But the beer industry in 1996 is very different to what it was in the middle of the 19th century."

However, the Labour Party immediately criticised the job losses, which include 250 in the Rushcliffe constituency of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, Ian McCartney, the shadow employment secretary, said:

"These employees are the latest innocent victims of the mercenary mania running riot through Britain's boardrooms. It is a calamity that such a successful company can blight the lives of so many of its local employees."

The redundancies are part of a radical restructuring at Scottish Courage, Scottish & Newcastle's newly created beer division. It is a move designed to streamline production, distribution and sales as it is reducing its number of depots from 41 to 28.

The company said the cuts would yield annual savings of £75m. The company has al-

ready announced £150m of provisions to cover the restructure. This includes £20m in cash and an asset write-down of £70m.

In future S&N's brewing will be concentrated at seven sites in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Tadcaster, Manchester, Masham, Bristol and Reading. Home Ales will be produced by Mansfield Breweries in North Nottinghamshire. The brewing of Webster's and Wilson's will be transferred to other sites.

Last month Scottish & Newcastle reported interim profits that were at the lower end of expectations. Pre-tax profits rose from £145m to £154m. The company announced then that it would be closing breweries but refused to be drawn on which might go. Some analysts speculated that as many as four might close.

On sales of £300m Courage contributed profits of £9m to group operating profits for the 11 weeks following the takeover. Analysts are forecasting group profits of £312m for the full year.

Dalgety pet food group yesterday discovered that French workers take a different approach to industrial relations, writes Nigel Cope. Threatened with closure, the workforce at the company's plant in Agen, southern France, took two of the plant's management hostage on Monday night to meet their demands that the factory should be kept open.

The company had announced the closure of a plant last week, in a cost-cutting move that will involve 140 job losses. But the Spillers group had bargained without the strong-arm tactics of the French.

Daniel Boulet, the managing director of Spillers Petfood, France, and his human resources director, Bernard Manaval, were "comfortably detained", as the company described it, at the factory throughout Monday night, before being allowed to leave in the morning.

The company says they were not tied up and were given food. It is therefore unlikely that the management duo had to resort to opening a couple of tins of Felix to ease their hunger pangs.

"I think they spent the night sleeping in their chairs and were allowed home in the morning to change their shirts and have a shave," a spokesman for the company said. "They then came back to resume negotiations."

The company added: "We want to come to an amicable arrangement and hope to resume discussions with the Workers Council. But the plant will close."

The local trade unions want the local prefect to appoint a mediator to resolve the conflict at the company.

The striking staff want the closure plan to be withdrawn and demand that Dalgety either modernises the plant or builds a new plant there.

The closure is part of the rationalisation programme that followed Dalgety's acquisition of Quaker's pet food interests in Europe last year.

Harvey-Jones hit by stroke

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, has had a minor stroke. The 71-year-old Sir John, whose long hair and kipper ties have become famous to millions of television viewers of his *Troubleshooters* programme, was afflicted just before Christmas. Described by his private office as "a very mild stroke", he has been ordered by doctors to take two months' complete rest.

He is approaching his 72nd birthday, is supposed to be retired and has been ordered to take a good long rest", a spokeswoman said. He has been working "very, very hard", having completed another series of *Troubleshooters* last year.

Sir John's television appearances typically raise his mailbag threefold to more than 100 letters a week, and he feels obliged to reply to them all and even speaks directly to people who need help, the spokeswoman said. On top of that he has speaking engagements all over the place and other television work which takes him travelling all over the country. He has been told to cut down on the burden of his work when he returns.

Sir John's naval career spanned service in submarines and work as a Russian and then German interpreter. But he spent most of his working life at ICI, culminating in the chairmanship between 1982 and 1987.

Sir John became active in a number of corporate and other roles following his retirement from ICI, including chairmanships of Burns Anderson, an illustrious network of financial advisers, the Council of the Widlowl Trust and the board of The Economist. He gave up his last company directorship when he turned 70.



Troubleshooter: Sir John Harvey-Jones

Mirror, mirror ... Heseltine puts a keen gloss on Pilkington's new 'float glass' product



Full exposure: The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, attended the unveiling yesterday at the Pilkington Technology Centre of the new product, which the group says marks a breakthrough in glass manufacturing

Scottish & Newcastle to cut 1,600 brewing jobs

NIGEL COPE

Scottish & Newcastle, which became Britain's biggest brewer following its acquisition of Courage last summer, is to cut 1,600 jobs and close two breweries as part of the integration programme. The cuts represent 20 per cent of the group's 8,000 beer production employees.

The company plans to close

the Fountain Head brewery in Halifax, which produces Webster's and Wilson's bitter as well as Foster's and Molson lager. Also to close is the Home brewery in Nottingham, which brews Home Ales and Matthew Brown beer.

The Fountain Head brewery,

Pet food protest goes untamed

Dalgety pet food group yesterday discovered that French workers take a different approach to industrial relations, writes Nigel Cope. Threatened with closure, the workforce at the company's plant in Agen, southern France, took two of the plant's management hostage on Monday night to meet their demands that the factory should be kept open.

The company had announced the closure of a plant last week, in a cost-cutting move that will involve 140 job losses. But the Spillers group had bargained without the strong-arm tactics of the French.

The company added: "We want to come to an amicable arrangement and hope to resume discussions with the Workers Council. But the plant will close."

The local trade unions want the local prefect to appoint a mediator to resolve the conflict at the company.

The striking staff want the closure plan to be withdrawn and demand that Dalgety either modernises the plant or builds a new plant there.

The closure is part of the rationalisation programme that followed Dalgety's acquisition of Quaker's pet food interests in Europe last year.

Thompson to take over Deutsche's global deals

JOHN EISENHAMMER
Financial Editor

Maurice Thompson is to take over the running of corporate finance at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, plugging a gap left by senior defections to Merrill Lynch last year. The 38-year-old was the first star poaching by DMG from Warburg at the beginning of last year, setting off an avalanche of over 50 executive departures to the German-owned merchant bank.

Mr Thompson will be in charge of a newly created investment banking division, the final stage of the reorganisation of Deutsche Bank and Morgan Grenfell's investment banking operations along global, integrated lines. The reorganisation was given added urgency by the departure in November of Guy Dawson and Justin Dowling, the number one and two in corporate finance, for Merrill. Long-standing Morgan Grenfell employees, they left

around Morgan Grenfell quickly reaped the benefits of the haemorrhaging of staff from its rival Warburg. In all, DMG took on about 75 new executives last year, as Deutsche pursues its ambition of becoming a leading global investment banking power by the end of the decade.

Maurice Thompson has been in charge of equity capital markets, along with his former Warburg colleague, Michael Cohrs, who was poached at the same time. Equity capital markets,

banking division will be responsible for presenting one face to our corporate clients through dedicated coverage. We will also be strengthening industry group expertise as a priority," said Michael Dobson, chief executive.

Mr Thompson originally made his name at Warburg for his handling of BT2 and BT3. Last year was a bumper year for corporate finance, and investment banks expect the takeover and merger activity to continue

Stop!

Are you about to break the law by copying from this newspaper?

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, except for single copies for research or private study, it is unlawful to reproduce articles from newspapers without permission. To enable you to make copies legally, your organisation must get a licence from the Newspaper Licensing Agency - set up to help you comply with the law quickly and easily.

You will find full details of the licensing scheme and an application form in a FREE booklet. For your copy, simply return the coupon below to: Newspaper Licensing Agency, 17 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1EX or phone 01732 380333 or fax 01732 380777

NLA

Please send me details of how my organisation can copy newspaper articles legally.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____

Job Title _____

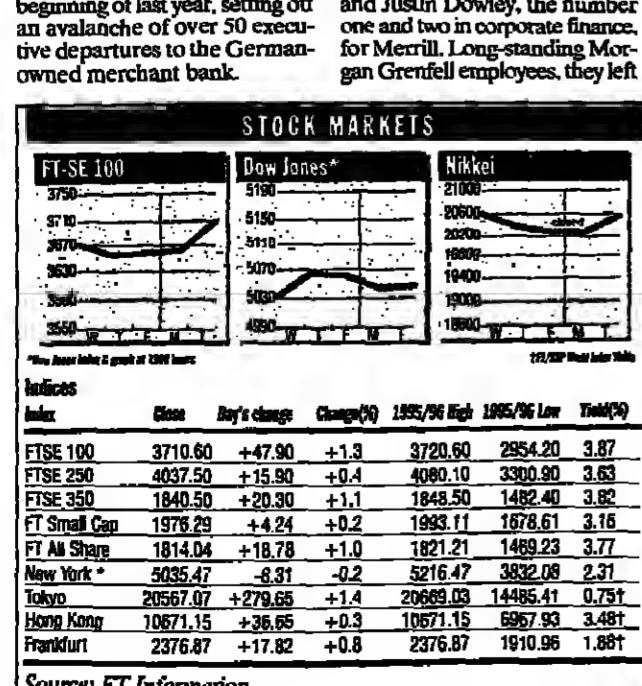
Company Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____

Nature of Business _____





COMMENT

All the hype that surrounded what were supposed to have been some of the sexiest investment prospects of the 1990s has come to nought.

Harvey Jones hit by stroke

Cable operators bury their heads in the sand

Both as a business and an investment, Britain's nascent cable TV industry is proving little short of a disaster. Things may change, but right now our main cable companies are failing to deliver the penetration rates promised at the time of flotation, or the financial performance to match. All the hype that surrounded what were supposed to have been some of the sexiest investment prospects of the 1990s has come to nought, with all three UK-listed operators trading well below their issue price. Even General Cable, which came to the market at a much scaled-back price is still trading 2p below its launch level.

What's gone wrong? The US and Canadian experience with cable stocks was vastly different. As operators across the pond built out their networks and added subscribers, investors got rich on the ride. In the UK, returns have been risible. They look even worse when set next to an otherwise rising stock market.

The answer is threefold. The first problem has been in marketing. Cable companies have generally been managed at the top by American executives who know more about digging up streets and connecting the local loop to the neighbourhood network than they do about selling Britons on the advantages of cable. Only in recent months have a few of the operators brought on marketing people with real ability, and many of these still lack acumen on the doorstep, where it really counts.

A few figures tell the tale. The industry as a whole is well on the way to building out the planned networks, having laid sufficient cable to pass 5 million homes. But the penetration rate is a measly 20 per cent industry-wide. That means only one in five who could actually take up the service has done so. Most of these, moreover, have taken the service not for its underlying *rason d'être*, cable TV, but because it offers cheaper telecommunications than BT.

That brings us to the second problem. Cable has not been able to differentiate itself from other providers of telephone services and entertainment. BT is a formidable competitor, true. But cable ought to be able to make much of its David status to BT's Goliath, offering better service, lower prices and more flexibility. That might be easier once number portability is introduced, allowing BT customers to keep their own numbers when they switch, but nothing the cable industry has done so far gives much faith in its ability to profit from this important concession.

When it comes to programming, cable companies have performed lamentably. It is almost as if TV and entertainment is no more than an afterthought. There is little if any of the interactive services promised by the information age and, as for TV, hardly anything the punters can't get elsewhere (on "free" television, or on Rupert Murdoch's satellite service). Why shell out £15 a month for cable TV if it cannot offer you anything?

Cable has of course come up against a formidable competitor in the form of Mr Murdoch. His stranglehold on subscription TV, ranging from dominance of sports and Hollywood film to the technology used to scramble and unscramble pay-TV signals, is so tight few can take him on. As a result, the two biggest cable operators, Telewest and Nynex CableComm, have given in agreeing long-term supply arrangements with Mr Murdoch's BSkyB to ensure a steady supply of quality programming. Needless to say, nobody makes much of a margin off Mr Murdoch.

The smaller operators have responded by complaining to the regulators, claiming that BSkyB enjoys an unfair advantage. While they could make some progress with the Office of Fair Trading, now investigating BSkyB's terms of supply to the cable industry, merely complaining won't be enough.

The industry needs to band together, helping to finance new sources of cable-exclusive programming to compete with Mr Murdoch's offerings. That does not look like happening, however, until TeleWest frees itself from the iron grip of TCI, which for the time being remains a commercial ally of Mr Murdoch.

Investor in cable can only hope that the economics of the industry will cause the long-heralded consolidation to occur quickly. Right now, there are too many small operators running too many tiny franchises.

If, as many analysts expect, six to eight large

companies end up dominating the market, there may be more room for economies of scale, bigger budgets for programme acquisition and keener marketing campaigns. From the investors' point of view, the best returns could be had from those companies on the receiving end of the consolidation. Sadly, that excludes the listed companies, which are much more likely to be predators than prey.

Tosh high on the menu in Forte takeover battle

A awful lot of nonsense is being written and said about Granada's £3.5m bid for Forte as the battle approaches what looks destined to be the traditional nail-biting finish. None more astonishing, however, than yesterday's leader in the *London Evening Standard*. Since this presumably reflects the view from inside the crumbling walls of fortress Forte, it bears some repeating.

Granada's bid is described as a piece of "commercial vandalism". Its purpose is characterised as self-aggrandisement by Gerry Robinson, Granada's boss, while the outcome, the newspaper laments, will be decided by a small group of rich City professionals (the Carol Gallois of this world) with only the short-term financial interests of their clients at heart. What's good for British catering industry goes by the board while there is not a scintilla of evidence to

suggest that a Granada takeover will benefit hotel guests or motorway service users. What tosh. The idea of Forte as lone defender of standards in British catering and hotel keeping is as ludicrous as it is mistaken. Why even the City and Business Editor of the *Independent* can produce a better fry-up than Little Chef. But even if you happen to like Forte's particular style of food and beds, as many apparently do, nobody could surely support the idea of Forte being afforded some kind of special protection from those evil money men in the City. Even Tony Blair's stakeholder economy might have some difficulty with that.

Hotel and catering is like any other business; those who don't deliver the goods find their customers go elsewhere. The City's problem with Forte is that rightly or wrongly it believes Forte has served its customers and shareholders poorly in recent years. The free market is a harsh task master and doesn't always get it right, but until someone comes up with a credible alternative, it is the best safeguard we have of efficient, value-for-money service.

So, please, no waterworks for the grand old name of Forte. If City fund managers get it wrong over Forte, backing Granada's break-up bid when the best course would have been to give Forte a second chance, it will be they who lose most. What they see is an opportunity to get out of a poorly performing investment at a reasonable price. Who can blame them for that?

Granada raids Forte shares

MATTHEW HORSMAN

Granada yesterday bet almost £400m that it would win the acrimonious battle for Forte, the hotels group. Around mid-morning it waded into the stock market snapping up 9.2 per cent of its prey.

The manoeuvre was seen by analysts as further indication that the television and leisure company was poised to clinch the hostile offer.

One analyst said: "With the shares now held by institutions friendly to Granada, this looks like the bid is pretty much decided." Mercury Asset Management, which holds 15 per cent of Forte, is believed to be preparing to tender its shares to Granada. Other institutional shareholders were last night also leaning towards accepting the hostile offer.

Forte dismissed the share purchase, calling it a "desperate attempt to restore momentum to its misguided bid." Sir Rocco Forte, the chief executive, said: "Granada has yet again shown its true colours by

favouring certain shareholders over others."

But Granada denied that it had given preference to certain buyers, claiming that it was "an open offer, and no one was given privileged position".

Analysts said only a radical move by Forte would now allow the company to escape with its independence intact. Among the possible last-minute defence strategies, the company

was believed to be discussing the sale of one or more "trophy" hotels and to be holding out for a higher offer from Whitbread for its restaurants and budget hotels businesses, which the brewer has contracted to buy for £1.05m if the Granada bid fails.

Analysts said a higher bid would be hard to achieve, as Whitbread would have to convince its shareholders that a premium offer made sense.

It can make additional purchases of up to a total of 29.9 per cent of Forte's shares at prices no higher than its all-cash offer of 36p.

A Granada adviser confirmed that the company had stopped short of buying the total amount available to it. "We wanted to leave ourselves some flexibility for the future."

According to sources, some of Forte's traditional institutional supporters were among those shareholders selling out yesterday, as volumes soared to more than 160 million. Market-makers and arbitrageurs were also among the sellers yesterday, according to dealers.

Separately, the Department of Trade and Industry con-

cerned yesterday that Granada would have to sell Forte's motorway services areas, branded as Welcome Break, if its bid succeeded, and said it would accept an undertaking to that effect in lieu of a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, said: "We said at the outset that we recognised the potential competition issues involved and we therefore volunteered to dispose of all of Forte's motorway service areas."

Following Monday's announcement that Sir Rocco would split the roles of chairman and chief executive, Forte yesterday appointed John Hoerner, chief executive of Burton Group, as non-executive director. Sir Anthony Tennant's appointment as non-executive chairman was announced on Monday.

Following yesterday's hectic trading, Granada closed up 23p at 693p, just below its share price prior to launching the bid in November. Forte closed 14.5p higher, at 380.5p.

People's Phone pulls float after slow Christmas

People's Phone pulls float after slow Christmas

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

People's Phone, the high street mobile telephone company, has pulled its planned flotation on the London Stock Exchange after a disappointing Christmas.

The company, founded by Charles Wigoder in 1988, said market sentiment had been hit by poor trading conditions in the UK mobile phone sector in the run-up to Christmas.

People's Phone, which is advised by Barclays de Zoete Wedd and UBS, is one of many companies that act as "middlemen" between network operators, such as Cellnet and Vodafone, and consumers who buy the telephones and the service. The flotation, originally scheduled for early this year, was expected to value the company at £1.5bn-£1.7bn.

The decision to delay may fuel speculation over the timing of the expected listing of Orange, the newest mobile net-

work operator, owned by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace. Orange's flotation, which analysts believe will value the company at more than £2bn, is widely expected to go ahead in March.

People's Phone said the move to postpone the flotation was also prompted by its own lower-than-expected market share in December, adding that this was likely to have continued into January because of the highly competitive offers available from other retailers.

It added in a statement that the board remained confident about the medium- and long-term growth prospects for the company.

Figures from Vodafone and Cellnet, the main network operators, showed that the total mobile telephone market fell sharply in December compared with the year before, when a record 400,000 people signed up for the networks. There is a view that people are much more

conscious of the on-going cost of using the telephones, the initial price of which can be extremely low.

Adding to the gloom, the Consumers Association recently alleged that many thousands of mobile telephone subscribers are disillusioned, with about one in four regretting the choices they made and many deciding to disconnect.

A report by the association, due in March, will conclude that the industry has failed to give a good enough service for the prices charged and that the networks and equipment are too often unreliable. It will criticise the tendency to lock people into long-term contracts with expensive penalty clauses for those who want to opt out before the agreement expires.

In spite of the setbacks, 1995 was the best year yet for the industry with Vodafone ending the year with over 2.33 million subscribers and Cellnet only a few tens of thousands behind.

Fresh Channel 5 bid evidence

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The row over the controversial Channel 5 auction last night threatened to intensify, as fresh evidence came to light of possible irregularities in the award of Britain's last terrestrial television licence.

On the eve of this morning's High Court hearing on the contentious award, it emerged that the winning bidders for the dis-

puted licence agreed to up their financial commitment by £100m four months after the final application was due in May. The information is contained in affidavits and documents scheduled to be presented in the High Court today.

Virgin TV, the losing bidder, which saw its own application for the licence turned aside on quality grounds, will argue that

BZW takes Salomon's Karat

BZW, the investment bank, has hired David Karat from Salomon Brothers to head its new global corporate finance group responsible for financial institutions. Mr Karat, who was head of UK corporate finance at Salomon Brothers, has been appointed managing director and co-head of the new group. The group is to develop relationships with the big banks and insurance companies.

Ssang Yong buys stake in Caspian

Ssang Yong Investments and Securities Co of Korea has taken an initial 12 per cent stake in the enlarged capital of Caspian, the emerging markets investment bank recently set up by Christopher Heath. Focused on Asia and Latin America, Ssang Yong and Caspian have set up a strategic relationship in broking, research, capital markets and risk management.

M&G to hold course despite departure

M&G, one of Britain's largest retail fund managers, said there was to be no change of strategic direction following the departure of Anthony Shearer, the chief operating officer. M&G blamed the departure on a personality clash with David Morgan, the managing director. M&G has suffered lately from a relatively poor fund performance.

Renwick to chair Save and Prosper

Sir Robin Renwick is to take over as chairman of Save and Prosper, the unit trust arm of Flemings, the merchant bank, on April 1 on the retirement of Charles Nummer.

Boeing and McDonnell shares suffer

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas saw their share values slip in New York yesterday on reports that they had abandoned talks on a possible merger. Sources suggested that the negotiations had been scuppered by disagreements both on the price tag sought by McDonnell Douglas and on the eventual distribution of top jobs.

In morning trading yesterday, Boeing's share price dipped to \$76 from \$77 at the start of the day and shares of McDonnell Douglas were down \$1.75 to \$90.25.

EC approves Lufthansa-SAS alliance

The European Commission said it had approved the alliance between Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Scandinavian Airlines System, subject to conditions on slots, frequencies and marketing agreements.

Can our Business Deposit rates match the 'Big Four' banks?

Bank	% Gross rate
The Co-operative Bank	3.93
Barclays	3.80
Lloyds	3.45
Midland	3.22
Nat West	2.875

DATA COMPILATION OF INSTANT ACCESS BUSINESS ACCOUNTS (BALANCES OF £1,000)

Only if we lower them.

Compare the interest rates on our Business Deposit accounts with any of the 'Big Four' banks and you'll notice one thing immediately.

Ours are higher.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK BUSINESS DEPOSIT SERVICES % GROSS RATE			
Balance Band	Instant	30 Day	90 Day
£300 - £9,999	3.25	3.75	4.46
£10,000 - £49,999	3.75	5.00	5.15
£50,000 - £249,999	4.25	5.25	5.75
£250,000+	4.75	5.75	6.00

Which means there is no more profitable home for funds on bank deposit than The Co-operative Bank.

With an instant Access account, you can even have a Business Banking Cashcard that gives you the easiest possible access to your funds 24 hours a day through 8,500 Link cash dispensers nationwide.

Paying in is easy too. You can pay in through our network of deposit machines or use the freepost deposit envelopes we provide.

You can choose your notice period - Instant, 30 day or 90 day.

So why wait any longer to enjoy higher interest? Call us today.

0800 323 323

Call free quoting reference no. 97603 or post the coupon

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Why do business with one that isn't?

Post to The Co-operative Bank plc, FREEPOST (MR8192), Manchester M1 9AZ or call free on 0800 323 323 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Name _____ Position _____

Organisation name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone number _____

Are you? A limited company or society A sole trader or partnership A school An unincorporated association <input type

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Anticipating the millennium

While the best gains in investment are likely to accrue to people with the time and dedication to seek out value in individual companies, for the vast majority that is not a viable option. If you are not a professional investor, you have to make fewer and longer-term investment decisions and for that reason they have to be better ones.

Looking towards the millennium a number of extremely exciting growth areas are emerging that should form the basis of everyone's thinking about investment. Emerging markets in areas such as South-East Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe have received plenty of coverage and pooled investments in these markets should be part of any well-diversified and long-term portfolio.

Even within the mature economies of Europe and North America there are fast-growing areas, which as the second chart below shows have been and are likely to continue to be extremely rewarding investments.

One theme highlighted by several investment experts in their annual start-of-year forecasts is the rapid ageing of populations in most Western countries, a demographic shift likely to have an enormous impact on spending patterns. Many areas of the economy will benefit from this change, not least healthcare, which already soaks up a huge chunk of American GDP.

You only have to look at the corporate activity in pharmaceuticals, biotech, medical devices and services over the past three years to realise that a massive consolidation phase is sweeping the industry as the big players jockey for position. That has been one of the driving forces behind the growth in funds invested in the sector of which the GT Healthcare fund shown below is just one example.

In the US, the rapid growth of so-called health management organisations has been a remarkable phenomenon of the 1980s and early 1990s as the first chart shows. HMOs, which unlike traditional medical insurers also contract with doctors and hospitals, are expected to have half the American population as members by the end of the century compared with only 10 million in 1980.

Health-care is only one of the likely beneficiaries of an ageing population. As we discussed in this column last week financial services companies tend to do well as the average age rises because older people tend to save and invest more. That favours companies that

manage other people's money, fund managers, stockbrokers and insurance companies.

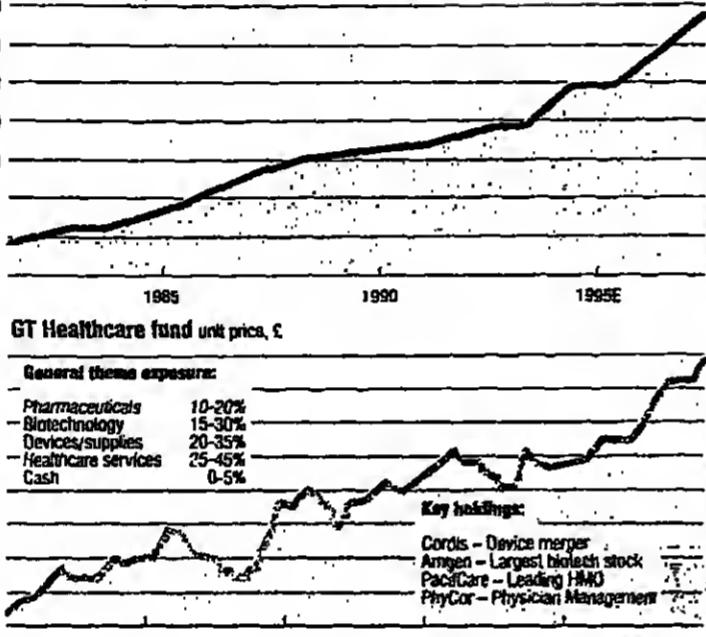
Other winning sectors will probably include security as older, wealthier people become increasingly nervous about rising crime levels. Beneficiaries of increased crimes against property and crimes of violence include privatised prisons, alarm companies, security guard companies and surveillance businesses. An investment premised on the ageing population should also look to include exposure to increased spending on leisure and tourism, and grow faster as the standard of living increases in emerging countries.

Diverse deal for Abbot Mead

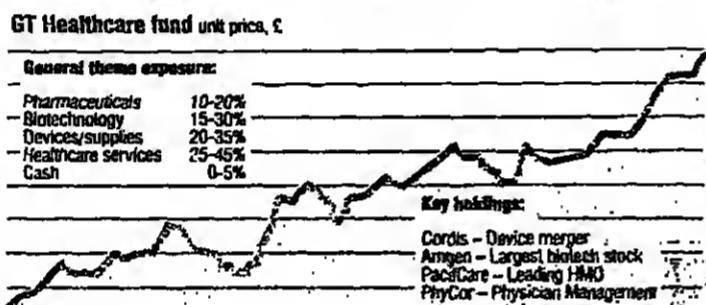
Abbott Mead Vickers passed a milestone yesterday with the acquisition for up to £15m of the public relations consultancy Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams. Although AMV is the UK's second-largest advertising agency after Cordiant, the latest deal means that in future it will derive less than half its total revenues from that source. It is the latest stage in

The ageing population: some winners

The HMO industry is growing millions of members



GT Healthcare fund unit price, £



General themes exposure:

- Pharmaceuticals 10-20%

- Biotechnology 15-30%

- Devices/supplies 20-35%

- Healthcare services 25-45%

- Cash 0-5%

Key holdings:

Cordis - Device merger

Amerex - Largest biotech stock

PacifiCare - Leading HMO

PhyCor - Physician Management

Sims - Health products manufacturer

Source: Lipson Lloyd Jones

the controlled diversification strategy mapped out by the chairman, David Abbott, and chief executive, Peter Mead, which has taken the group into areas such as design, promotion, direct marketing, magazine production and posters – all the business described as “below the line” in the jargon.

Unlike others in the business, AMV appears to have bought well. A string of conservatively financed deals since the mid-1980s helped the group weather the advertising bloodbath in the 1990s, with profits bottoming out at £4.72m in 1992 and reaching £8.22m in 1994.

The latest deal appears to run in the same vein. Fishburn Hedges' profits have risen from £852,000 in 1994 to an audited figure of over £1.1m last year. Net assets in December were £469,000.

On the basis of those figures, AMV is paying £4m in cash down and a further four additional payments of up to £1.1m in total over the next three years. With the exit p/e ranging from two to 10 times, if profits exceed £2.25m by the end of the century, that should make the deal comfortably earnings-enhancing for the group and helps explain yesterday's 2p rise in the shares to 469p.

Coming on top of deferred payments for previous acquisitions, the latest deal will have more than wiped out net cash, which totalled £4.2m in December 1994. But while AMV will still not be constrained if further purchasing opportunities come up, its main attraction must come from the continued growth of its advertising business.

Profits of £13m in 1996, up from an expected £10.6m last year, would put the shares on a prospective multiple of 20. High enough, even with the US advertising group Omnicom sitting on a quarter of the equity.

‘Mad cow’ misery at Sims

Shareholders in Sims Food, which supplies meat and poultry to supermarkets, must be wondering if the company has been breaking mirrors, such as it runs of misfortune. In the past seven years it has issued six profits warnings and two cash calls. Its shares have slumped dramatically, from 339p three years ago to 28p yesterday. The latest trauma is “mad cow disease”, or BSE, which has badly affected sales of beef. Its meat sales are thought to be down 10-20 per cent. Sims is likely to pass its final dividend for the full year to March 1996. These results are likely to be particularly awful as they will be wrecked by asset write-downs. The company is in talks to sell its red meat business which supply meat to supermarkets and to the catering trade. These divisions accounted for 80 per cent of Sims' £285m sales. Their disposal will leave the company with only its manufacturing operation which makes hamburgers and sausages. These are higher-margin sectors but, in the current food environment, hardly likely to yield high growth.

Analysts' forecasts range from a £1m operating loss to a £1m operating profit for the year to March, though the pre-tax figures is expected to be a heavy loss. It is a dismal tale but possible take-over action offers a crumb of comfort to the company's bruised shareholders. Sims has already received offers for the whole company.

Meanwhile PDFM, the fund manager, has been increasing its stake and holds 22 per cent. Perhaps it senses a deal coming that would put everyone out of their misery.

Simon Pincombe CITE Sex-change economist presents a revised figure

The Institute of Economic Affairs is guaranteed a full house on Monday 18 March when Professor Deirdre McCloskey will deliver her lecture on “Bourgeois Virtue”. Known for her strong feminist views, the John F Murray professor of economics at the University of Iowa (and professor of history, no less) will argue that it is time to “rediscover an art, literature, ethics and economics” that celebrates the fact that we are townspeople.

Not that such matters will be debated at the IEA. Prof McCloskey will tackle the trickier business of Adam Smith's third set of virtues, “the bourgeois virtues of the townspeople”.

I know what you are thinking. Why the professor of economics at the University of Iowa is not Deirdre McCloskey but Donald McCloskey, the noted author who just happens to be an authority on feminism and economics. Not any more he isn't. Students returning to the Iowa campus after the Christmas break have been confronted with a profound and fundamental change in their mentor following a visit to a clinic in San Francisco.

Nevertheless, most are agreed that the revised figure (always a popular concept in economic circles) sits

more comfortably with the professor's contribution to the role of women in the economy. Academics may recall such seminal works as *In Beyond Economic Man and Some Consequences of a Conjectural Economics*.

Not that such matters will be debated at the IEA. Prof McCloskey will tackle the trickier business of Adam Smith's third set of virtues, “the bourgeois virtues of the townspeople”.

The good thing about boating is that it takes your mind,” claims Mr Vyner, who enjoys cruising with his wife. “If I was sitting on a beach I would only be worrying about the business.”

Nervous ticks reappear at Cazenove. The brokers have learned that the annual figures from their client, Burmah Castrol, will fall on 1 April.

The last time this happened was just after the Gulf War when Jonathan Fry, the Burmah chief executive, insisted on playing an April fools prank. He told his horrified audience that Burmah had struck a deal with Iraq's Ba'ath party to supply Saddam with petrol.



Party time in the Cabinet War Rooms (picture above) last night, with the number crunchers at the Central Statistical Office celebrating their 55th and final birthday. The CSO – founded in 1941 by Winston Churchill to help manage the economy in the Second World War – is merging with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys to form The Office for National Statistics. Party gossip inevitably centred on the year 1941. A pint of bitter then cost the equivalent of 4 pence compared with £1.49 today; there were 1.9 million private cars (20 million today). That year also saw the birth of Bob Dylan. Just fancy that.

Cognac sales headache for Remy Cointreau

NIGEL COPE

Remy Cointreau, the French drinks group, reported a fall in operating profits yesterday as a result of lower sales of its Remy Martin brand of cognac and the effects of currency fluctuations. The company also announced plans to reduce its Fr8.5bn (£1.15bn) debt mountain to Fr6bn by converting debt into equity stakes.

Reporting figures for the nine months between April and

December, the company said sales of cognac were 10 per cent down on the same period last year after the company introduced a price rise in July. The company lost market share to other cognac producers which cut prices or kept them constant.

Countries such as Vietnam, Korea and Russia were in a good mood, he said, while spirits (and sales) were deflated in France and Germany. The UK was performing steadily.

The company also said that the French government's controversial nuclear tests in the Pa-

Heidsieck had increased. Remy Cointreau's joint managing director, Marc Heriat Dubreuil, said: “You can tell the mood of a country by how much cognac it drinks.”

However, Remy said rival producers were increasing prices and Remy Martin was beginning to claw back the lost ground. Sales had fallen sharply in China, though sales of champagnes such as Krug and Peiper-

cific Rim last year had led to local boycotts that dented sales of its champagnes and wines. Local action was particularly strong in Scandinavia and Germany, as well as in Japan. However, sales in Britain had not been affected. Sales had also been disrupted by the recent strikes in Paris though this had not been serious.

While sales of cognac fell, champagne sales were up by 30 per cent in the period. Liqueur, wine and spirit sales were almost

10 per cent up. However, group profits were lower as the margins on champagnes and wines are slimmer. Currency fluctuations had also moved against the company.

Sales of Passeoa, a passion fruit liqueur launched seven years ago, were growing strongly with sales up 30 per cent on last year.

In the six months to June, group operating profits fell from Fr394m to Fr216m. However, pre-tax profit increased from Fr135m to Fr217m due to

Fr25m of exceptional items relating to the transfer of the Picard brand trading rights to Grand Metropolitan's IDV subsidiary last June.

As part of the group's policy to reduce debts its main shareholder, Orpar, has exercised its convertible bond for Fr836m creating 6 million new shares. Orpar is 70 per cent-owned by the Dubreuil family which controls the group with the remaining 30 per cent held by Highland Distilleries.

Plastics group McKechnie is buying Thompson International, a wheel trim supplier to the North American car market, for £27m. Thompson employs 500 and has two main manufacturing plants in South Carolina and Kentucky. In the year to March 1995, Thompson made pre-tax profits of £3.5m from sales of £46.4m.

McKechnie makes £27m US acquisition

Courtaulds has sold its Blackburn-based electrical insulation business to Kensulat, a London company, for an undisclosed sum. Formerly known as Hazelhurst Sample, the business is part of Courtaulds Aerospace Composites and had a net asset value of £1.5m in March last year.

Courtaulds sells insulation business

ML Laboratories, the drugs company listed on the Unlisted Securities Market, said a clinical study in AIDS patients of its patented anti-viral agent, D2S, was progressing well. It hoped to make a detailed statement about the drug's effectiveness next month.

Drugs group hopeful on AIDS treatment

ML Laboratories, the drugs company listed on the Unlisted Securities Market, said a clinical study in AIDS patients of its patented anti-viral agent, D2S, was progressing well. It hoped to make a detailed statement about the drug's effectiveness next month.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Debenham Textiles (I)	27.7m (28.1m)	0.94m (1.8m)	1.22p (2.65p)	0.80 (1.50)
Forsepak (I)	16.8m (8.04m)	-364,000 (-1.1m)	-	2.45p (2.15p)
Graham Computing (F)	7.0m (6.5m)	1.3m (0.7m)	2.36p (1.22p)	0.80 (0.50)
Microgen Higgs (F)	6.6m (6.6m)	8.4 (8.2m)	14.8p (10.0p)	7.50 (7.25)
Quality Care Homes (P)	1.7m (12.5m)	4.8m (3.7m)	27.45p (20.43p)	3.30 (4.50)
(P) - Final (I) - Interim (II) - New months				

LLJ North

Lipson Lloyd Jones was voted the top agency in the most recent national survey of legal recruitment consultancies. We are delighted to announce the opening of our new northern office providing lawyers seeking career advancement in the North of England with the most responsive and comprehensive service available.

Our philosophy has always been to treat every candidate as an individual and respect their personal requirements and therefore our service is geared to ensure that your career objectives are met with precision and friendly approach. Call Penny Keating, Senior Consultant.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
Devonshire House, 39 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EO
Tel: 0113 243 0180 Fax: 0113 243 9488

LLJ North

WORLDCOVER

WORLD TRADE IRAN
US 1995-1996 51

An 8 page appointment section covering vital issues in accountancy, public sector finance and the legal profession.

See pages 13 - 17
19 - 21
section two

To book your advertisement call
The Finance & Legal Team on
0171 293 2310

Every Wednesday in the
THE INDEPENDENT
section two

Three leading US banks announced better-than-expected results yesterday for the last quarter of 1995, with loan growth powered by the continuing strength of the American economy, writes John Wilcock.

Chicopee, Chemical Bank and Chase Manhattan all did better than forecast, while only NationsBank disappointed.

Joseph Bartel, chief investment strategist at Wall Street brokers Farnsworth, said that yesterday was “super Tuesday” for the banks. All the big names are reporting and, for the most part, they have really exceeded estimates.

Even though NationsBank's results were poorly received, it still increased its fourth-quarter

earnings to \$1.85 a share, up from \$1.45.

Hugh

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3710.6+47.9
FT-SE 250
4037.5+15.9
FT-SE 350
1840.5+20.3
SEAQ VOLUME
901.9m shares,
32,161 bargains
Gilt's Index
95.98 +0.28

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Prices soar on interest rate hopes and takeover talk

Share prices soared yesterday, recording their best one-day gains for three months. Expectations of further cuts in interest rates and takeover rumours were the main driving forces.

The FT-SE 100 index surged 47.9 points to close at 3,710.6 and tantalisingly near the all-time high of 3,720.61 hit a week ago. Most of the trading action was among the leading stocks, although second-liners recorded reasonable gains and the FT-SE 250 index advanced 15.9 points to 4,037.5.

Share trading volumes were high despite a swift execution and successful market raid on Forte stock by Granada. Total volume topped 900 million, of which 16.2 million was in Forte shares alone.

Investors side-stepped the lacklustre overnight performance on Wall Street, and share prices in London started rising steadily from the opening bell.

The bullish tone for the session was firmly established in mid-morning trading when Granada gave the go-code for Hoare Govett and BZW to mount an assault on Forte's shares at up to 384p each.

Many of Forte's institutional shareholders found the offer too good to refuse, and Granada was soon sitting on more than 9 per cent of the hotel company's shares. Forte finished 14.5p higher at 380.5p, while Granada's shares climbed 23p to 693p – their highest level since the television company fired off its takeover bid in late November.

The final count put total turnover in Forte at 163 million. Dealers said the bid pendulum was swinging in Granada's favour, although several continued to predict a close finish when hostilities cease next Tuesday.

Prospects for cheaper money, though, held centre stage for

MARKET REPORT
JOHN SHEPHERD

most of the session. Longer-dated gilt-edged stocks climbed three-quarters of a point, making a two-day gain of around one-and-a-half points.

Optimism over interest rates was buoyed when Michael Heseltine let slip that today's unemployment statistics would show the 28th consecutive monthly fall.

Some traders were betting on the outside chance that this morning's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England might yield a quarter-point cut in rates. Most, however, predicted that the Chancellor was unlikely to pre-empt a move by the Bundesbank,

which meets tomorrow, and would wait until next month before lowering rates.

A smattering of takeover gossip, noticeably absent on Monday, helped keep the party going. Zeneca leapt 43p to £1.91 as his rumours resurfaced.

Analysts at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said that if a bid materialised for Zeneca it should be around £1.5 a share. The name of Roche of Switzerland was again being touted as the most likely to mount a bid. Glaxo rose 17p to 902p with Hoare Govett turning positive on the stock.

Continued bid speculation pushed World of Leather a fur-

ther 9p higher to 79p. DFS Furniture, steady at 399p, and Carpetright, also unchanged at 442p, are both being tipped as suitors.

Lloyds Chemists climbed 16p to 291p as rumours resurfaced that a predator was lurking in the wings. The speculative list of bidders includes Asda, a penny better at 114.5p, and Unilever, off 1p to 326p.

Composite insurers were live as they thought possible consolidation in the sector. Guardian Royal Exchange closed 13.5p higher at 269.5p. Sam Alliance increased 13p to 379p and Royal Insurance added 9p to 393p.

Allied Domex was again in demand, finishing 10p higher at 549p with investors becoming increasingly convinced that a disposal of its half-share in the Carlsberg Tetley brewing venture was drawing near. Bass up 11p to 727p, and Whitbread, up 4p firmer at 680p, are the

favourite candidates to strike a deal with Allied.

Elsewhere in drinks, Scottish & Newcastle eased 1p to 608p as it unveiled its long-awaited rationalisation of its brewing business following last summer's purchase of Courage. Poor results from Remy unsettled one of its main shareholders, Highland Distilleries, off 4p to 326p.

The day's casualty list included Sims Foods, down 5p to 28p on yet another profits warning, and Mersey Docks and Harbour, 14p to 391p on worries that industrial unrest could cost the company contracts with shipping lines.

First Leisure slipped 7p to 368p ahead of today's full year results, which analysts predict will produce taxable profits of between £9m and £14m. There was a mild rumour that the group may announce further expansion of its health and fitness business.

TAKING STOCK

Memory Corporation, traded on AIM, is rumoured to be on the verge of clinching a trading deal with the mighty Sumitomo Corporation of Japan. The deal is said to involve repairing and upgrading rejected D-Ram computer chips which Sumitomo will buy from manufacturers and then resell to customers in the Far East. Shares in Memory were 5p higher at one stage before closing unchanged at 395p.

Shares in Scotia Holdings, the pharmaceuticals company, climbed 20p to 583p late in the day amid rumours of a pending announcement on the possibility of finding an alternative use for one of its drugs. Several delayed trades at prices up to 592p were registered after the close. The alternative use, according to one trader, was for treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex-rights and ex-dividend dates are in parentheses. A suspended or Party Paid pm Nt Paid Share.

Source: Financial Times

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seq. Simply dial 0801 123 3235, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time 01 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation Issues 36
UK Stock Market Report 91 Button Report 05 Water Shares 39
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 44

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 673 4375 (830am- 530pm).

Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/000	Stock	Vol/000	Stock	Vol/000	
Forte	Smith (M)	100000	Granada	60000	Glaxo	50000
British Gas	100000	Sabrebury	60000	Tesco	50000	
Reliance	90000	Salix	50000	Seas	50000	
Lockheed	90000	Lloyds TSB	70000	BAT Ind.	50000	
BT	90000	Hanson	90000	Globe Telecom	50000	
Vodafone	90000	BTI	75000	National Grid	50000	

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3685.00 up 3.5 11.00 3690.00 up 2.75 12.00 3692.00 up 2.05 13.00 3693.00 up 2.25 14.00 3697.00 up 2.45 15.00 3700.00 up 2.65 16.00 3705.00 up 2.32 17.00 3709.00 up 2.42 18.00 3712.00 up 2.49

Close 3702.00 up 4.75 14.00 3697.00 up 2.45 15.00 3693.00 up 2.05 16.00 3692.00 up 2.25 17.00 3690.00 up 2.45 18.00 3689.00 up 2.25 19.00 3685.00 up 2.45 20.00 3682.00 up 2.25 21.00 3680.00 up 2.45 22.00 3678.00 up 2.25 23.00 3675.00 up 2.45 24.00 3672.00 up 2.25 25.00 3670.00 up 2.45 26.00 3668.00 up 2.25 27.00 3665.00 up 2.45 28.00 3662.00 up 2.25 29.00 3660.00 up 2.45 30.00 3657.00 up 2.25 31.00 3654.00 up 2.45 32.00 3651.00 up 2.25 33.00 3648.00 up 2.45 34.00 3645.00 up 2.25 35.00 3642.00 up 2.45 36.00 3639.00 up 2.25 37.00 3636.00 up 2.45 38.00 3633.00 up 2.25 39.00 3630.00 up 2.45 40.00 3627.00 up 2.25 41.00 3624.00 up 2.45 42.00 3621.00 up 2.25 43.00 3618.00 up 2.45 44.00 3615.00 up 2.25 45.00 3612.00 up 2.45 46.00 3609.00 up 2.25 47.00 3606.00 up 2.45 48.00 3603.00 up 2.25 49.00 3600.00 up 2.45 50.00 3597.00 up 2.25 51.00 3594.00 up 2.45 52.00 3591.00 up 2.25 53.00 3588.00 up 2.45 54.00 3585.00 up 2.25 55.00 3582.00 up 2.45 56.00 3579.00 up 2.25 57.00 3576.00 up 2.45 58.00 3573.00 up 2.25 59.00 3570.00 up 2.45 60.00 3567.00 up 2.25 61.00 3564.00 up 2.45 62.00 3561.00 up 2.25 63.00 3558.00 up 2.45 64.00 3555.00 up 2.25 65.00 3552.00 up 2.45 66.00 3549.00 up 2.25 67.00 3546.00 up 2.45 68.00 3543.00 up 2.25 69.00 3540.00 up 2.45 70.00 3537.00 up 2.25 71.00 3534.00 up 2.45 72.00 3531.00 up 2.25 73.00 3528.00 up 2.45 74.00 3525.00 up 2.25 75.00 3522.00 up 2.45 76.00 3519.00 up 2.25 77.00 3516.00 up 2.45 78.00 3513.00 up 2.25 79.00 3510.00 up 2.45 80.00 3507.00 up 2.25 81.00 3504.00 up 2.45 82.00 3501.00 up 2.25 83.00 3498.00 up 2.45 84.00 3495.00 up 2.25 85.00 3492.00 up 2.45 86.00 3489.00 up 2.25 87.00 3486.00 up 2.45 88.00 3483.00 up 2.25 89.00 3480.00 up 2.45 90.00 3477.00 up 2.25 91.00 3474.00 up 2.45 92.00 3471.00 up 2.25 93.00 3468.00 up 2.45 94.00 3465.00 up 2.25 95.00 3462.00 up 2.45 96.00 3459.00 up 2.25 97.00 3456.00 up 2.45 98.00 3453.00 up 2.25 99.00 3450.00 up 2.45 100.00 3447.00 up 2.25 101.00 3444.00 up 2.45 102.00 3441.00 up 2.25 103.00 3438.00 up 2.45 104.00 3435.00 up 2.25 105.00 3432.00 up 2.45 106.00 3429.00 up 2.25 107.00 3426.00 up 2.45 108.00 3423.00 up 2.25 109.00 3420.00 up 2.45 110.00 3417.00 up 2.25 111.00 3414.00 up 2.45 112.00 3411.00 up 2.25 113.00 3408.00 up 2.45 114.00 3405.00 up 2.25 115.00 3402.00 up 2.45 116.00 3409.00 up 2.25 117.00 3406.00 up 2.45 118.00 3403.00 up 2.25 119.00 3400.00 up 2.45 120.00 3397.00 up 2.25 121.00 3394.00 up 2.45 122.00 3391.00 up 2.25 123.00 3388.00 up 2.45 124.00 3385.00 up 2.25 125.00 3382.00 up 2.45 126.00 3379.00 up 2.25 127.00 3376.00 up 2.45 128.00 3373.00 up 2.25 129.00 3370.00 up 2.45 130.00 3367.00 up 2.25 131.00 3364.00 up 2.45 132.00 3361.00 up 2.25 133.00 3358.00 up 2.45 134.00 3355.00 up 2.25 135.00 3352.00 up 2.45 136.00 3349.00 up 2.25 137.00 3346.00 up 2.45 138.00 3343.00 up 2.25 139.00 3340.00 up 2.45 140.00 3337.00 up 2.25 141.00 3334.00 up 2.45 142.00 3331.00 up 2.25 143.00 3328.00 up 2.45 144.00 3325.00 up 2.25 145.00 3322.00 up 2.45 146.00 3319.00 up 2.25 147.00 3316.00 up 2.45 148.00 3313.00 up 2.25 149.00 3310.00 up 2.45 150.00 3307.00 up 2.25 151.00 3304.00 up 2.45 152.00 3301.00 up 2.25 153.00 3298.00 up 2.45 154.00 3295.00 up 2.25 155.00 3292.00 up 2.45 156.00 3289.00 up 2.25 157.00 3286.00 up 2.45 158.00 3283.00 up 2.25 159.00 3280.00 up 2.45 160.00 3277.00 up 2.25 161.00 3274.00 up 2.45 162.00 3271.00 up 2.25 163.00 3268.00 up 2.45 164.00 3265.00 up 2.25 165.00 3262.00 up 2.45 166.00 3259.00 up 2.25 167.00 3256.00 up 2.45 168.00 3253.00 up 2.25 169.00 3250.00 up 2.45 170.00 3247.00 up 2.25 171.00 3244.00 up 2.45 172.00 3241.00 up 2.25 173.00 3238.00 up 2.45 174.00 3235.00 up 2.25 175.00 3232.00 up 2.45 176.00 3229.00 up 2.25 177.00 3226.00 up 2.45 178.00 3223.00 up 2.25 179.00 3220.00 up 2.45 180.00 3217.00 up 2.25 181.00 3214.00 up 2.45 182.00 3211.00 up 2.25 183.00

unit trusts/data

Foreign Exchange Rates											
STERLING		DOLLAR		D-MARK							
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month
US	1.5366	14.12	34.31	1.000	-	1.0561	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Canada	2.2024	18.3	50.57	1.255	0.3	1.0155	0.3	0.3	0.3	100.00	100.00
Germany	2.2062	18.3	51.51	1.255	0.3	1.0155	0.3	0.3	0.3	125.77	125.77
France	7.8570	7.79	20.83	7.782	7.57	7.57	7.57	7.57	7.57	7.57	7.57
Ireland	0.8120	8.61	23.71	8.62	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45
Japan	0.8120	8.7	23.79	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
UK	0.8120	8.7	23.81	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
ECU	0.6110	14.1	37.27	12.97	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
Denmark	2.2057	18.6	53.24	12.60	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35	12.35
Netherlands	2.2173	18.6	54.54	12.65	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40
Portugal	0.8085	8.7	23.82	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Switzerland	0.8223	8.7	23.84	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Norway	0.8223	8.7	23.85	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Spain	0.8070	8.7	23.87	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Australia	1.2004	12.9	32.04	12.97	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
Hong Kong	1.2055	9.21	24.65	12.95	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
Malta	1.2033	8.75	23.22	12.95	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
New Zealand	1.2033	8.75	23.22	12.95	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
Singapore	1.2074	9.1	24.30	12.95	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65	12.65
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.88	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.89	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.90	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.91	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.92	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.93	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.94	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.95	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.96	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.97	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.98	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	23.99	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.00	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.01	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.02	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.03	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.04	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.05	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.06	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.07	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.08	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.09	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.10	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.11	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.12	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.13	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.14	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.15	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.16	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.17	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.18	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.19	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.20	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.21	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.22	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.23	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.24	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.25	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.26	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.27	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.28	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.29	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.30	8.67	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47	8.47
Other	0.8070	8.7	24.31	8.67	8.						

sport

Lawmakers to take up the attack

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

Rugby union's international law-makers will decisively shift the balance from defence towards attack if they adopt a proposal at this month's International Board annual meeting in London to keep all 16 forwards bound into a scrum-mage until it ends.

This is potentially as important a law-change as there has been in two decades – including the controversial amendment of the ruck-and-maul law in 1992 – and comes from New Zealand with the express intention of eradicating midfield defensive congestion by keeping flankers elsewhere.

If that alters the nature of wing-forward play, that is the only change of more than cosmetic importance being considered by the IB, which is anxious to resist the pressure under the new professional dispensation for "entertainment" at the expense of the game's most intrinsic features.

Keith Rowlands, the IB secretary, briefed the rugby press for the last time before his retirement at board headquarters in Bristol yesterday, and as he picked out this one prospective amendment it can be assumed it has wide support. "It would be an enormous and fundamental change to the playing of the game," he said.

As the IB is considering siting its "offshore" – probably in Dublin, Monte Carlo or Switzerland – for tax reasons, its days in Bristol appear numbered. Another change means that, as of the forthcoming annual meeting, the chairman of the board will be appointed by election and not by Buggins' turn as previously.

Rowlands had ironically comforting words for the Rugby Football Union in its distress at the grassroots uprising which it fears may, if the membership votes to reimpose amateurism, have to mean its withdrawal from the IB. "The

game is not a professional game," he said. "In our game there may be only 12 or 14 unions who pay people or allow people to be paid."

The International Board has put in place regulations that say the game is open. Open is open-ended and therefore if the RFU was to declare itself an amateur rugby union it would not affect its membership of the International Board, because it would be exactly the same as the Croatian Rugby Union and Japanese Rugby Union and somewhere in the region of 57 rugby unions around the world.

Rowlands was more concerned at the threat to the official game from entrepreneurs such as the Australian Ross Turnbull, who has attempted to buy up leading European players to be the clowns in a rebel circus. "I would have serious concern that the game worldwide is sufficiently organised or funded to resist serious overtures," he said. "I say that because the game worldwide is seriously underfunded. We are talking about 71 unions, 57 of whom have a major cash problem."

As for the big unions, with some 500 players under contract they are safe for now, but the retiring secretary foresees further bids from the likes of Turnbull once those contracts run out. "By then we will be into the next World Cup, playing in which will enhance those players' value."

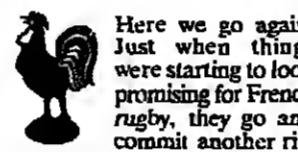
Rowlands revealed what the Five Nations' Committee has failed to when he stated that referees handling the 10 fixtures in the championship which begins in Paris and Dublin on Saturday will receive £400 each per match, with touch-judges getting £200 each and the reserve touch-judge £100 to establish both pecking-order and incentive. Brian Campsall from Halifax, referee of Ireland v Scotland, and David McHugh from Cork (France v England) are the first beneficiaries.



Forward revolutionary: Jean-Claude Skrela has sought to become a steady influence in the treacherous waters of French rugby

Photograph: Allsport

Skrela eager to mix realism with flair



Here we go again. Just when things were starting to look promising for French rugby, they go and commit another ritual hara-kiri. Pierre Berbizier was sacked last September, despite his impressive record and the creditable third placing at the World Cup, and the Fédération Française de Rugby is currently involved in yet another virulent public slanging match as sectors of the French press, fanned by the explosive revelations in the daily *L'Equipe* bay for the blood of its hapless president, Bernard Lapasset.

Jean-Claude Skrela, France's new coach, however, scorns the naive indifference of a newcomer to these political shenanigans and has deliberately steered clear of any involvement. "The only thing that interests me is what happens on the field of play. I just hope we are strong enough to rise above all this," he says. Indeed if Skrela has any political thoughts at all they are more concerned with the darkening gloom and ever-growing pessimism which currently pervade French society in general, the depth of emotion in the public mourning of President Mitterrand aside, public morale remains severely shaken by the disruptive strikes in December and the threat of more to come.

The French XV has, according to Skrela, its role to play as an antidote. "In this current context it is important to give people a little pleasure. It's the least we can do. If the players themselves experience pleasure on the field they will transmit it to the spectators and to all those watching on TV."

Called in to take over the reigns of the French team last autumn, Skrela has had a dream debut. Only weeks after his appointment France won the Latin Cup, comprehensively outclassing Argentina in the final at Buenos Aires, while in November in their first Test at Toulouse they stormed to an unexpected victory over New Zealand, before losing a week later. Arguably the most complete game of rugby ever seen at the Parc des Princes, this second Test was a match of such intensity, with the ball in play for a total of 33 minutes (as compared to the average of 26) that it surpassed anything the Five

Nations' Championship has yet produced in Paris. "You wouldn't believe the number of people who stopped me in the street, or who rang me to say how much pleasure they got from that game," says Skrela, noting that France finished the series with five tries against four for the All Blacks. Despite losing 12-37, however, it was as if the thunderous game, the first real challenge of the Skrela era, not only confirmed the Tricolore's world ranking, but also gave France the right to align themselves with the best from the southern hemisphere.

Against England on Saturday Skrela, a former hook row forward who played 46 times for France between 1971 and 78, intends to maintain that standing. Raw-boned and uncompromising, he made a name for himself as a hard-working flanker who was ahead of his time in his fanatical devotion to physical fitness, and if last week's squad

session is an indication, he intends transferring the same fanaticism to his players. His appointment as coach comes as a significant break with a French tradition which has tended to give preference to the personality of celebrated ex-players, rather than coaches with a proven track record. Unlike his three predecessors Jacques Fouroux, Daniel Dubroca, and Berbizier himself, who all jumped directly from player to coach, Skrela can already boast an impressive c.v. as a coach at all levels of the game. As an employee of the Colomiers Town Council he has coached schoolboys since 1970, and has considerable experience coaching First Division club sides, notably at Colomiers, where he was in charge when the FFR called him to the rescue, and Toulouse.

If Skrela's experience meant that he was immediately able to set up systems and routines

with the French XV, it also meant there was no delay in hauling over the coals some of the more unruly elements, and eliminating the bad habits carried by some of the newcomers from club rugby into the national side. The off-ball antics of Richard Dourthe against the All Blacks, and the incessant niggling of Toulouse's Philippe Carboneau in the European Cup final against Cardiff cannot have failed to attract the eye of English observers. But at the recent squad session near Toulouse, Skrela made a point of singling these players out.

Admittedly Skrela has already been prepared to take a number of risks in building his side and it is clear that his strategy is focused more on the long term than on ensuring results in the short term. He had no hesitation, for instance, in bloodbath the two young centres Dourthe (21) and Thomas Castaignede (20) against the All Blacks, nor in taking a gamble on the uncapped Muchel Perie to play at loose head against England on Saturday. "My belief is that if these players are not ready now they never will be ready."

England back

Despite the pressure for France to perform on Saturday, and to put an end to seven years of defeat against England in the Championship, Skrela appears adamant that he will not change tactics simply to ensure victory. "If you play a dynamic running style of rugby you expose yourself to certain risks. I don't want to see a French team which is timid, which waits for the opposition to make the play, or until the last minute to score a try."

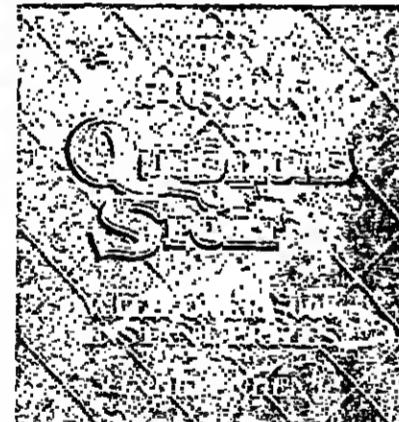
"My instructions to the players are simply not to be restrictive. We are under no illusions, and we know that England still has a very strong team. They were recently booted by their own crowd so I'm sure they will have something to prove."

So is the well-being of the French public still uppermost in his mind? "Yes. They come to watch us so we must bring them a little happiness. It is part of the role of the French team, and of rugby in general," he says.

"But despite all that we still have to win." Skrela might be a philanthropist he is still a realist at heart.

Questions of Sport

£40,000 to be won



Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions of Sport multi-choice scratch which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000. You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play – a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 19 January. And as well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

HOW TO PLAY
Today we are playing the section of the card dated Wednesday 17 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Sixteen, either A, B or C in the Q16 column then repeat for Q17 and Q18.

THE QUESTIONS
Q16 In which country was tennis player Bjorn Borg born?
A: Finland
B: Denmark
C: Sweden

Q17 In which year did Britain win the Olympic hockey gold medal?
A: 1984
B: 1988
C: 1992

Q18 Who is the coach of the South African Test cricket team?
A: Bob Woolmer
B: John Lever
C: Alan Knott

IMPORTANT
Scratch off ONE letter only for each question.
If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one section on any day, you win that amount.
After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize.

You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk.

HOW TO CLAIM
If you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to the newsagents listed below.

For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm Monday to Saturday.

Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Fortbuys, Martins/RS McColl/Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, SuperCity, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop.

If you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley, BB10 1SH.

RULES AS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

SOME OF OUR WINNERS SO FAR:
Derim Cassim from Pwllheli, Wales - £250
Sonia Turner from Blackpool, Lancashire - £250
Maureen Pearson from Horsforth, Leeds - £100
Roger Bryant from Clayton West, Huddersfield - £100
Peter Penryman from Olday, West Yorks - £50
Lyn Gray from Gargrave, Nr. Skipton - £25
David Eaton from Liverpool, Merseyside - £25
Michael Wright from Wrexham - £25

QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON
Wednesday 17 January 1996
To claim prizes up to £5
DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

Cork accepts he must alter his one-day ways

Cricket

England's management are trying to get another Derbyshire pace man to change the way he bowls – but this time there will be no controversy.

As the Devon Malcolm revolutions rumbled on in Great Britain, Dominic Cork admitted in Durban yesterday that the England hierarchy are right to order him to make alterations to his approach for one-day games.

At 3-1 down in the seven-match international series against South Africa, which resumes in Durban today with the fifth one-day, England's management recognise that they must tighten up in certain areas of their out-cricket – not just for the three remaining South African matches but in preparation for next month's World Cup in India and Pakistan.

The England manager, Ray Illingworth, said after England's afternoon net session yesterday that he would be having a separate meeting with the bowlers before tomorrow's match to thrash out problems of inconsistency that have plagued England so far in the one-day series.

He said: "We are going to have a team meeting to go over things in general because we have made hard work for ourselves by going 3-1 down. But I will then be having a meeting with the bowlers on their own because we have to make sure we don't keep giving away runs with wides and no-halls and we have to start concentrating on bowling it into the right areas. We have to start being tuned in."

The 24-year-old Cork, now England's leading bowler,

shouldered the blame for England's defeat in Durban.

Illingworth said: "I don't think this has affected the team at all. The only person that has been affected is me, and I am very upset. But I have spoken with Lord's and I am sure they will take the necessary action."

Malcolm denies race row

Devon Malcolm yesterday denied that his dispute with the England manager, Ray Illingworth, had anything to do with his colour. He was condemned for bringing race into the argument when he asked if he would have been treated as a white bowler.

But a statement issued yesterday by his solicitors, Meir Care and Desai, said: "Recent media comment has suggested that Devon Malcolm has accused the tour management of discriminating against him because of his colour.

"Mr Malcolm has not al-

leged that either the TCCB or the tour management discriminated against him on account of race, but felt that he had been treated harshly on tour.

"Devon Malcolm's reference to colour, as reported, was in the context of his trying to understand the reasons for his treatment and was one of several reasons considered by him."

Illingworth said: "I don't think this has affected the team at all. The only person that has been affected is me, and I am very upset. But I have spoken with Lord's and I am sure they will take the necessary action."

Crowe retires hurt after 77 Tests

Martin Crowe, of New Zealand, has announced his retirement from international cricket because of injury.

Crowe, 33, returned from New Zealand's tour of India in November with injuries to both legs. He was told by selectors he needed to play two domestic matches to prove his fitness before the World Cup but was unable to play even one.

"In the end it's just too painful and too hard to continue at the level that I'd like to play at," Crowe said. "I had no choice at this stage not to stand down."

Crowe captained New Zealand in 16 Tests and in the semi-finals of the 1992 World Cup, when he was named player of the tournament.

For much of the 1990s a recurring injury to his right knee prevented him from playing a full part in New Zealand's Test programme.

Crowe was signed by Somerset in 1987 and scored 1,627 runs in the season, an average of 67.79 before injury forced him to terminate his contract.

Allan Lamb will play one last season for Northamptonshire before retiring from first-class cricket. The 41-year-old relinquished the captaincy at the end of last summer but intends to accept a new one-year contract.

McGibbon: British champion
British champion is killed

Skating

Kirsten McGibbon, a promising 20-year-old British downhill skier, was killed yesterday when she lost control on an icy section while training in Altaussee, Austria.

McGibbon, from Glasgow, in her first season as a member of the British team, died from head injuries and internal bleeding after falling and hitting the safety netting. The death was the first of a British skier in international competition.

"From what we know, she hit a major turn which was quite icy and lost it," Mike Jardine, the British Ski Federation spokesman, said. McGibbon was taken by helicopter to the Schwarzenbach Hospital near Salzburg where she was pronounced dead.

The accident was on the same World Cup track where the Austrian World Cup skier Peter Wirsberger was killed in a non-competitive skiing accident more than three years ago.

McGibbon, the British downhill champion, fell on her second training run on the course and was part of a 20-strong British team training for the Lowlander Championships – two levels of competition below the World Cup circuit – which is due to start today.

This latest tragedy comes almost exactly two years after the Austrian Ulrike Maier was killed in a fall in a World Cup downhill at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany. The most recent death before that was that of another Austrian, Gerhard Reindl, in training at Wengen in Switzerland in 1991. There have been 11 connected with racing since 1959.

Chelsea counting on current form

Football

Mark Hughes has been told to turn his back on confrontation when Chelsea travel to St James' Park to meet Newcastle in tonight's FA Cup replay.

However, Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, believes that Chelsea's current form, rather than the possible absence of Newcastle's Les Ferdinand, Robert Lee and Steve Howey, could turn the third-round replay the London club's way.

Ferdinand, like Lee, is struggling with Achilles tendon trouble and it could mean the striker misses his first match since moving north for £6m. "We have known that Les has been down to London and seen a couple of specialists in the time Newcastle have been on the road, but you worry about your own situation," said Hoddle, who has appealed against the dismissal of Hughes at Everton on Saturday.

Dennis Wise and Hughes, who faces a five-match ban after being booked at Goodison and then sent off for an alleged stamp on David Unsworth, will both be banned for the fourth round at Queen's Park Rangers should Chelsea win.

Wise finally reached 21 points at Everton with his first

caution since the end of October and Hoddle said: "To go that length of time nowadays and not be booked is a feat in itself. You don't have to be a genius to work out that referees are booking more people – and Mark's game is competitive. I wouldn't really want him to change that because the physical side of his play is not dirty."

"He uses his body extremely well to hold off defenders and he takes a hell of a lot of punishment during games. It's maybe a little farcical and a verbal situation that happens when we have these confrontations that he needs to detach himself from."

Third Division Hereford are confident of securing victory over Tottenham at White Hart Lane. Steve White, scorer of four goals in Saturday's 5-2 win over Cambridge, said: "We are creating six seven chances a match. There is no doubt we are still in with a shout."

Graham Turner, the Hereford manager, added: "We know let them off the hook in the first game, but there is no reason why we can't win it."

Sheffield United will have

their suspended players, Mark Patterson and David Turtur, eligible for the game against Arsenal at Bramall Lane. With Steve Bould ruled out with a hamstring injury and Nigel Winterburn suspended, Bruce Rioch names the same Arsenal side on duty for Saturday's 3-2 win at Middlesbrough.

Stuart Pearce, the Nottingham Forest captain, is preparing his team-mates for another tough battle with Stoke. Pearce salvaged a replay for Forest with a late goal at the Victoria Ground after Simon Sturridge had put Stoke in front. Pearce said: "Any one who thinks we've already done the hard work by getting a replay at our place is sadly mistaken. We've still got an awful lot to do to get through that tie."

At 5ft 4in, Wright may be one of the smallest players to enter the England reckoning in the post-war era. The 24-year-old, capped at schoolboy, youth and Under-21 level, joined Villa for £1m last March after losing his Blackburn place to Le Saux. Ironically, Le Saux's misfortune means Wright now has the opportunity to challenge Stuart Pearce for the left-back spot.

The continued omission of Le Tissier, despite a meeting on Monday between Venables and the Southampton manager, Dave Merrington, confirms that the Channel Islander is highly unlikely to make the final squad of 20. Stan Collymore is also left out, although the neglect of his Liverpool co-striker, Robbie Fowler, is more surprising. Another Villa player, Mark Draper, can count himself unfortunate.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Stevens (Arsenal), Walker (Tottenham), Flanagan (Leeds), Grealish (Birmingham), Houghton (Leeds), Venables (Liverpool), Wright (Villa), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Carragher (Tottenham), Gascoigne (Middlesbrough), Law (Leeds), Law (international), Stewart (Middlesbrough), Forest (QPR), McManaman (Liverpool), Wiles (Cheltenham), Venables (international), Barnes (Middlesbrough), Shearer (Blackburn).

thoughts," said Venables, who is in Poland today sorting out England's World Cup fixtures. "But he needed time to settle and in the end needed more time than I thought."

At 5ft 4in, Wright may be one of the smallest players to enter the England reckoning in the post-war era. The 24-year-old, capped at schoolboy, youth and Under-21 level, joined Villa for £1m last March after losing his Blackburn place to Le Saux. Ironically, Le Saux's misfortune means Wright now has the opportunity to challenge Stuart Pearce for the left-back spot.

The continued omission of Le Tissier, despite a meeting on Monday between Venables and the Southampton manager, Dave Merrington, confirms that the Channel Islander is highly unlikely to make the final squad of 20. Stan Collymore is also left out, although the neglect of his Liverpool co-striker, Robbie Fowler, is more surprising. Another Villa player, Mark Draper, can count himself unfortunate.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring about, it's not a lot of good."

The Watford midfield pair Derek Payne and Steve Palmer are both ruled out of the match against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park. Payne is starting a two-week suspension while Palmer has a groin injury.

Birmingham, who face Wolves, are hoping their Dutch goalkeeper, Bart Gruenink, recovers from an ankle injury. Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, said: "Although I want Bart to play, he can barely stand at the moment. If he can't kick and spring

SPORT

INDEPENDENT
QUESTIONS
OF
SPORT

£40,000 to be won

See Page 22

RUGBY UNION

Skrela: France's new revolutionary 22

Becker taken to the brink by Rusedski

Tennis

GREG RUSEDSKI went close to causing the first major upset of the Australian Open before losing in five sets to Boris Becker, the fourth seed. Becker eventually won 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, but only after Rusedski had led two sets to one and was threatening Becker's serve at the start of the fourth set.

Rusedski's main weapon is his serve, and he went close to breaking his speed record of 137mph, frequently hitting 130mph, with a best of just under 136mph. Becker often had no answer and his frustration showed as he made several irritated comments to the umpire.

The eighth game of the fourth set and the seventh of the fifth set proved the turning points. On both occasions, Becker suddenly got the measure of Rusedski's serve. Rusedski's volleys lost their punch and Becker went on to win in two hours and 49 minutes.

Rusedski said: "He showed why he's a great player out there. If you give him a bit of a chance, he makes it go on for

ever. That's how he turned the match around. I thought I had a chance throughout but you can never feel you've won against Becker until you've won it."

Becker, who had not won a match at the Australian Open since the second round in 1992, said: "I've broken a jinx by winning. I wasn't nervous, in fact quite the contrary, I was too relaxed. But in the fourth set I realised Greg had a weaker side and I was able to exploit that to my advantage."

Rusedski's defeat leaves Tim Henman flying a lone flag for Britain in the singles. He plays Jonas Bjorkman today after securing his place in the second round with a superb four-set victory over Petr Korda.

He fought back from a set down to win 5-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 and now has the chance to reach the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

Henman should have won the opening set after leading 4-2. He

then lost his service when 5-4 up in the second set, after making a series of groundstroke errors, and could then have gone on to lose the match. But he regained his sense of purpose and built a 6-1 lead in the tie-break, finally

taking it 7-4 on his fourth set point when Korda put a simple forehand into the net.

A break in the third set for a 4-2 lead proved the decisive moment, and as the match moved into the fourth set, Korda looked increasingly tired. Henman missed two match points at 5-3 on his opponent's serve, but finished the match with a love game after a final set.

"I played somewhere between well and very well," he said. "I probably played better last week [in Sydney] but it was a different sort of match today. I served very well – that is the difference between now and a few months ago. I can serve well for longer stretches."

"I'm obviously very pleased to have won but I think there are areas for improvement. I play well in some matches but not in others, so in my next match I need to knuckle down and produce a good performance."

Clare Wood failed to progress, losing 6-4, 6-1 to Conchita Martinez. Her defeat capped a miserable time for the British No 1, who suffered a ligament injury playing at a charity fair in July 1994 when her world ranking was at a career-high 77. She dropped to 232 after the lay-off caused by her injury and was Britain's sole women's singles entrant, ranked 179.

She broke Martinez three times in the opening set, but Martinez gradually found her rhythm and won with an ace after 71 minutes. "I wanted to go to the net more," Wood said. "But she keeps up such a good length that it was difficult. I'm disappointed to have lost, but I suppose winning three matches in the qualifying tournament is a good start to the year."

Pete Sampras, the men's No 1 who feared an early exit after suffering a bout of flu, showed few lingering effects of the illness by beating Richard Fournier 7-5, 6-3, 6-2. The unseeded Stefan Edberg began his final Australian campaign with a hard-fought 7-6, 7-5, 3-6, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Jiri Novak.

Monica Seles, the women's No 1, ignored the pain from a lingering groin strain to extend her perfect record at the event with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over the American qualifier Janet Lee.

CLOSE CALL: Rusedski's serves rattled Becker, but he was let down by his volleys

Photograph: Chris Cole/Empics

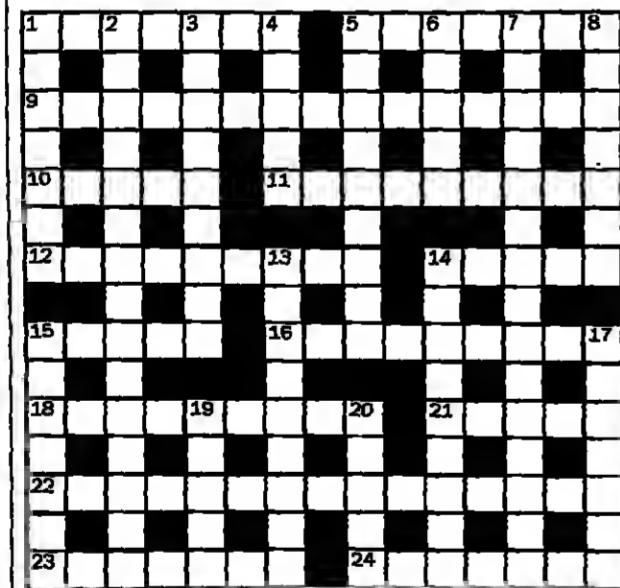
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with



No. 2835, Wednesday 17 January

By Aquila

Yesterday's Solutions



- ACROSS**
- Red-hot water-heater, from the sound of it (7)
 - Going by order of shorter English dictionary, with a long appendix (7)
 - Freeing of Poles in new dating element? (15)
 - Cautious about putting church alongside a railway (5)
 - Juniper, perhaps, chap wears first? (9)
 - With no-one up, original verdict is to stand (9)
 - Decline is light around city area (5)
 - Birds found in another nesting-site (5)
- DOWN**
- Cocktail only taken in combination? (7)
 - Salad seedlings mess – add currants, perhaps (7,3,5)

Win a Weekend Break or a case of Bombardier Premium Bitter
CALL 0891 311 017

When you have the answers to the first three clues across AND the first three clues down phone 0891 311 017 and leave your answers with your name address and daytime telephone number by midnight tonight. Each day there is a case of Charles Wells Bombardier Premium Bitter to win. PLUS from all entries for the week a winner will be selected for a Weekend for two in a Charles Wells County Hotel.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times. Winners will be selected at random. There is no cash alternative. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Details of prize draw can be obtained by sending an SAE to: Charles Wells Crossword, Old A, Bowe House, St Peters Road, Maidenhead SL6 7QU

Sole survivor: Tim Henman came back from a set down yesterday to be the only Briton in the second round of the singles

Photograph: Mark Baker/Reuters

Premier League vetoes the Intertoto Cup

Football

Premier League clubs yesterday gave the thumbs down to this summer's Intertoto Cup and their unanimous support to Tottenham and Wimbledon in their battle with Uefa, European football's governing body.

The two clubs were last week banned for a season from European competition after the shambles of last year's Intertoto tournament, in which they fielded under-strength teams, which has cost English football a Uefa Cup place in 1996/97.

However, the Premiership chief executive, Rick Parry, said the decision not to compete this

coming close season was taken "purely on practical considerations".

Clearly, however, chairmen are unhappy that the two London clubs have been made scapegoats – as is the Football Association, which is backing an appeal by Spurs and Wimbledon to have the suspension lifted.

Meanwhile, Uefa yesterday insisted it would maintain its three-foreigner limit this season.

The decision puts it in conflict with the European Union's highest court, which ruled last month that the limit on foreigners is illegal and should be abolished. Uefa's stance – in the "interest of continuity and fairness" – also puts it at odds with the Premier League.

Rangers have completed the signing of the Dutch international striker, Peter van Vossen, 27, in a straight swap which has taken the Russian forward, Oleg Salenko, to the Turkish club, Istanbulspor. Osvaldo Ardiles, the former Tottenham manager, is to take charge of the Japanese club, Shimizu S-Pulse.

A foot injury has forced Mark Pembridge, the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, to withdraw from the Welsh squad to face Italy in Terzii next week.

NORTHERN IRELAND (Monday 19 Jan): Sat 23 Aug; Ukraine (M). Sat 5 Oct; Armenia (H). Sat 9 Nov; Germany (A). Sat 14 Dec; Spain (A). Sat 18 Jan; Portugal (H). Wed 2 Apr; Ukraine (A). Wed 9 Apr; Armenia (A). Wed 20 Apr; Germany (H). Wed 21 Sept; Albania (A). Sat 11 Oct; Portugal (A).

Good-bye battery



Seiko Kinetic®. The first and only quartz watch that generates its own energy from your every movement.

The perpetual accuracy of quartz, naturally, without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continually and it will never let you down. It's built to last.

Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO
KINETIC

Burns has Hearts on his mind

Tommy Burns yesterday mapped out his first desired destination for his Celtic team, even if he cannot give the estimated time of arrival.

The Parkhead chief hopes the game against Hearts today will produce a victory to mark another significant step on the road to overtaking Rangers and "becoming the best in Scotland".

Celtic, unbeaten in 17 league games, can cut the gap to just two points at the top of the Scottish Premier League by winning at Tynecastle in their remaining game.

"We still have a long way to go to reach where I eventually want us to be," Burns said. "We are reaching out to be the best

that we can be and that is still a long, long way off.

The potential at this club is enormous, and we have made progress. Possibly we have got down the road quicker than we imagined. But the first step would definitely be to become the best in this country – that is the challenge in front of us.

"We are not kidding ourselves or wanting to run before we can walk by thinking about European ambitions. At the moment, Hearts is the only thing that concerns us and winning that match and keeping up our run of form."

Celtic are set to be unchanged after impressive away wins at Raith last Tuesday and

Ranger Dave McPherson. Paul Smith is also on standby for a midfield place.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford.

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 916600.

Wednesday 17 January 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office